The interplay between genetic and learned components of behavioural traits: olfactory responses of predatory mites to signals contained in a herbivore-induced plant volatile

Sznajder, B.A.

Citation for published version (APA):
Sznajder, B. A. (2010). The interplay between genetic and learned components of behavioural traits: olfactory responses of predatory mites to signals contained in a herbivore-induced plant volatile
I would like to express my greatest thanks to Maus and Martijn. As supervisors you provided continuous enthusiasm for research in the face of growing teaching/administrative duties and this I have always valued very much. I thank you for giving me the freedom to develop research in new directions but also for pressing me not to lose my focus either. I have learned much during our discussions on the work contained in this thesis. Finally, although some might not consider this to be an essential feature of a supervisor, I have always admired your kindness and enjoyed your good sense of humour. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to work with you.

Many friendly and bright people helped me and/or provided their good company during my time in the department of Population Biology in the University of Amsterdam. I'd be hard press not miss anyone important by naming them all. Nevertheless, I’d like to take this opportunity to thank Michiel van Wijk and Merijn Kant for their help during my first years. I greatly appreciate the advices on the experimental set-ups or biology of mites that you gave me, not to mention your help with collecting our dear mite Phytoseiulus persimilis in Sicily! Without your keen eyes, good companionship and the driving license (ehem, I still don't have one) I am sure I would have brought far fewer mites that we did. Nicola and Iza were kind enough to go through the rambling of my theoretical chapter and their feedback contributed greatly to making it more focused and clearer. Also, Michiel and Iza kindly agreed to be my paranimphs and here is a special thanks to them. I would like to acknowledge Arne for being always supportive towards all the students in the Population Biology group. And of course (as a standard in this group) for being so good-natured. Jan Bruin was kind to provide his time and experience in preparation of this thesis for printing. Jan, you’re a star.

Overall, I think I was very lucky to have worked in this department where enthusiasm for science, hard work and fun mingled easily. Thus, I’d like to thank you all for the good time we had, and the help/advices you all gave in various ways during those years.
Acknowledgements

Although it has been some time I’d like to acknowledge Professor Adam Łomnicki, and Mariusz Cichoń and Ryszard Korona of the department of Population Biology of Jagiellonian University in Kraków where I did my Master thesis. It is their research and teaching that showed me how fascinating studying nature in evolutionary context is. Later on I was again fortunate to meet on my path an inspiring scientist and a great friend – Jeff Harvey. His passion for research and science advocacy and a fantastic sense of humour have been inspiring for me ever since. I thank you Jeff for all your help and quotes: when you have to shoot, shoot, don’t talk.

I would like to also acknowledge Professor Junji Takabayashi and students and postdocs in the Center for Ecological Research of Kyoto University. I have enjoyed tremendously the time I spent in your group during my PhD project. I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome in Kyoto and introducing me to various research projects conducted in your center.

My family and friends both in Poland and in Amsterdam kept me sane and focused by alternately reminding to finish this thesis and to enjoy life with all that it brings. I would like to thank you all for everything and there is so much of it. Przyjemnie jest móc taką pracę napisać, ale nic nie jest ważniejsze niż rodzina, tj. nas czworo, to jest sześćoro, to jest teraz siedmioro! Special thanks go to Dorotka Chmiel and to Matthijs and Virginia for their long friendship. Finally, Andrew. There is no end to my thanking you but this is a private story.

Beata