

# Variability in Sexual Pheromones Questions their Role in Bumblebee Pre-Mating Recognition System

Nicolas Brasero, Thomas Lecocq, Baptiste Martinet, Irena Valterova, Klára Urbanová, Roland de Jonghe, Pierre Rasmont

#### ▶ To cite this version:

Nicolas Brasero, Thomas Lecocq, Baptiste Martinet, Irena Valterova, Klára Urbanová, et al.. Variability in Sexual Pheromones Questions their Role in Bumblebee Pre-Mating Recognition System. Journal of Chemical Ecology, 2018, 44 (1), pp.9-17. 10.1007/s10886-017-0910-4. hal-01972537

## HAL Id: hal-01972537 https://hal.univ-lorraine.fr/hal-01972537

Submitted on 11 Dec 2020

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers. L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

1	Variability in Sexual Pheromones Questions their Role in Bumblebee Pre-Mating
2	Recognition System
3	NICOLAS BRASERO <sup>1*</sup> , THOMAS LECOCQ <sup>1,2</sup> , BAPTISTE MARTINET <sup>1</sup> , IRENA
4	VALTEROVÁ <sup>3</sup> , KLÁRA URBANOVÁ <sup>3,4</sup> , ROLAND DE JONGHE <sup>1</sup> , PIERRE RASMONT <sup>1</sup>
5	1: University of Mons, Research institute of Biosciences, Laboratory of Zoology, Place du
6	Parc 20, 7000 Mons, Belgium (phone: +3265373435; e-mail: nicolas.brasero@umons.ac.be)
7	2: Research Unit Animal and Functionalities of Animal Products (URAFPA), University of
8	Lorraine – INRA, 2 Avenue de la Forêt de Haye, BP 172, 54505, Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy,
9	France
10	3: Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Institute of Organic Chemistry and
11	Biochemistry, Flemingovo nám 2, CZ-166 10 Prague, Czech Republic
12	4: Czech University of Life Sciences, Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, Department of
13	Sustainable Technologies, Kamýcká 129, CZ-165 21 Prague, Czech Republic
14	
15	*Corresponding author
16	Acknowledgements
17	Financial support (IV and KU) was provided by the Institute of Organic Chemistry and
18	Biochemistry of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (#61388963). BM
19	contributes as PhD student granted by the FRS-FNRS (Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique)
20	The authors are particularly grateful to Jean-Christophe Sandoz for all his advices and
21	comments.
22	
23	
-	

Abstract - Sex-specific chemical secretions has been widely used as diagnostic characters in chemotaxonomy. The taxonomically confused group of bumblebees has reaped the benefit of this approach through the analyses of cephalic labial gland secretions (CLGS). Most of currently available CLGS descriptions concern species from the West-Palearctic region and few from the New World. Here, the CLGS descriptions of four East-Palearctic species *B. deuteronymus*, *B. filchnerae*, *B. humilis* and *B. exil* (subgenus *Thoracobombus*) are performed. Our results underline a strong variability in main compounds in *B. exil*. In contrast, we describe a low differentiation in CLGS compounds between *B. filchnerae* and its closely phylogenetically related taxon *B. muscorum*. Moreover, the chemical profile of *B. filchnerae* and *B. muscorum* is characterized by a highly concentrated component of the length C18 while it is a C16 in the other *Thoracobombus* species. It raises a possibility that the courtship behavior as well as environmental constraints could affect the role of the bumblebee males cephalic labial glands secretions.

**Key Words** - Courtship behavior, pheromones, cephalic glands

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

68

69

In many animal species, sex-specific chemical secretions are involved in the pre-mating communication (Patricelli et al. 2003; Hay 2011; Lecocq et al. 2015a). This key role in reproductive behavior has led to the development of the chemotaxonomy in which such chemical traits are used as diagnostic characters to assess taxonomic statuses (Quicke 1993; Bagnères et al. 2003; Pokorny et al. 2014). The systematics of insects has especially reaped the benefits of this approach (Lockey 1991). Bumblebees give a stunning example of the improvements raised by chemotaxonomy (Bertsch and Schweer 2011; Lecocq et al. 2015b). In this taxonomically confused group, morphological traits are often poorly efficient diagnostic characters because different species can be morphologically highly similar while conspecific populations can be extraordinarily divergent in their coat color pattern (Michener 1990; Williams 1998; Lecocq et al. 2015b). In contrast, the male cephalic labial gland secretions (CLGS) are known to be species-specific semiochemicals (Calam 1969; Ayasse and Jarau 2014). These secretions are produced de novo (Luxová et al. 2003; Žáček et al. 2013) and they attract conspecific virgin females (Ayasse and Jarau 2014). They appear to provide efficient diagnostic characters for species delimitation (Svensson 1979; Bergström 1981; Terzo et al. 2003; Rasmont et al. 2005; Lecocq et al. 2015c). During the last decades, an increasing number of studies has based their taxonomic conclusions on inter-taxa comparisons of CLGS composition (Lecocq et al. 2015b,d). However, global taxonomic assessment of bumblebee species through chemotaxonomy requires an extensive overview of the CLGS composition. Currently the CLGS composition have been described for approximately 65 species (Terzo et al. 2003; Terzo et al. 2007; Rasmont et al. 2005; Ayasse and Jarau 2014; Lecocq et al. 2015c,d; Brasero et al. 2015) out of a total of 250 bumblebee species around the world (Williams 1998).

Most of currently available CLGS descriptions concern species from the West-Palearctic 70 71 region (Calam 1969; Rasmont et al. 2005; Lecocq et al. 2015b) and some from the New World (Bertsch et al. 2004, 2008; Brasero et al. 2015). In contrast, bumblebee fauna from 72 East-Palearctic region has received far less attention to date (Bergström et al. 1981). Yet, this 73 area hosts the main bumblebee species diversity hotspot (Williams 1998). 74 Beyond taxonomic matter, more and more ecological questions about the role of compounds 75 76 emitted by bumblebees emerge within the scientific community (Lhomme et al. 2015; Brasero et al. 2017). However, compared to several neural coding studies focused on sex pheromones 77 in honey bees (Galizia and Menzel 2001; Sandoz 2012; Carcaud et al. 2015), only few studies 78 79 have begun to describe neurophysiological structures in bumblebees (Fonta and Masson 1984; 80 Strube-Bloss et al. 2015). In this study, the CLGS of four East-Palearctic taxa were investigated: *Bombus deuteronymus* 81 82 superequester (Skorikov 1914) (Fig. 1 A); B. filchnerae Vogt 1908 (Fig. 1 B), B. humilis subbaicalensis Vogt 1911 (Fig. 1 C) and B. exil (Skorikov 1923) (Fig. 1 D) all belonging to 83 the Thoracobombus Dalla Torre, 1880 subgenus. Moreover, we compared the CLGS 84 composition of B. filchnerae with that of its nearest Palearctic taxon; B. muscorum (L. 1758) 85 (Fig. 1 E, F). 86

#### METHODS AND MATERIALS

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

Sampling. 65 queens of *B. deuteronymus superequester*, *B. exil*, *B. filchnerae* and *B. humilis subbaicalensis* have been collected in Mongolia in 2014. Twenty were transported alive and reared in Belgium. In order to produce males, we maintained queens in a wooden box in a controlled climate, dark room at 26/30°C and 50-60% relative humidity, and fed ad libitum with salix pollen and sugar syrup (Lhomme et al. 2013). We produced 51 males (Tab. 1): *B. deuteronymus superequester* (n=10), *B. exil* (n=13), *B. filchnerae* (n=15) and *B. humilis* 

subbaicalensis (n=13). We assessed the taxonomic identification of males using the 94 95 taxonomical revision of North China bumblebees published by An et al. (2014). Prior to chemical analyses, all males were killed by freezing at -20°C and their CLGS were 96 extracted in 400 µl hexane (De Meulemeester et al. 2011). Samples were stored at -40°C prior 97 to analyses. In order to compare the CLGS compositions of B. filchnerae, we used its 98 phylogenetic sister taxon B. muscorum (n=24) partially published (Lecocq et al. 2015d) (Tab. 99 100 1). Chemical Analyses. We identified the CLGS composition by gas chromatography-mass 101 spectrometry (GC/MS) using a Focus GC (Thermo Scientific) with a non-polar DB-5 ms 102 103 capillary column [5% phenyl (methyl) polysiloxane stationary phase; column length 30 m; inner diameter 0.25 mm; film thickness 0.25 µm] coupled to DSQ II quadrupol mass analyzer 104 (Thermo Scientific) with 70 eV electron ionization. We used a splitless injection mode 105 106 (220°C) and helium as a carrier gas (1 ml/min). The temperature program of the oven was set to 70°C for two minutes and then heated up at a rate of 10°C/min to 320°C. The temperature 107 was then held at 320°C for five minutes. Compounds were identified in Xcalibur<sup>TM</sup> using the 108 retention times (t<sub>r</sub>) and mass spectra of each peak, in comparison to those at National Institute 109 110 of Standards and Technology library (NIST, U.S.A). Double bond positions (C=C) were 111 determined by dimethyl disulfide (DMDS) derivatization (Cvacka et al. 2008). We quantified all samples using a gas chromatograph-flame ionization detector Shimadzu 112 GC-2010 with a SLB-5ms non-polar capillary column (5% phenyl (methyl) polysiloxane 113 stationary phase; 30-m column length; 0.25-mm inner diameter; 0.25-µm film thickness) with 114 the same chromatographic conditions as in GC/MS. Peak areas of compounds were detected 115 in GCsolution Postrun (Shimadzu Corporation) with automatic peak detection and noise 116 measurement. We calculated relative amounts (RA in %) of compounds in each sample by 117 dividing the peak areas of compounds by the total area of compounds in each sample. We 118

discarded all compounds for which RA were lower than 0.1% for all specimens (De Meulemeester et al. 2011). Moreover, All compounds having a RA equal to or greater than 1% are considered to be abundant compounds. We elaborated the data matrix as the alignment of each compound between all samples performed with GCAligner 1.0 (Dellicour and Lecocq, 2013a,b)(see supplementary file 1). Statistical Analyses. Statistical analyses were performed using R (R Development Core Team 2013) to detect CLGS differentiations between taxa. Data consisting of the relative contents of all compounds were standardized (mean=0, standard deviation=1), to reduce the sampleconcentration effect (Brasero et al. 2015). Clustering method was used to detect the differentiation between taxa. A Pearson correlation matrix based on CLGS data matrix was computed. An unweighted pair group method with arithmetic mean (UPGMA) was used as clustering method (R-package ape,(Suzuki and Shimodaira 2011)). We assessed the uncertainty in hierarchical cluster analysis using p-values calculated via multiscale bootstrap resampling with 50000 bootstrap replications (R-package pvclust, (Suzuki and Shimodaira 2011)). We calculated CLGS differentiations of taxa by performing a multiple response permutation procedure (MRPP) (R package vegan, (Oksanen et al. 2011)). To determine compounds specific to each taxa (indicator compounds, IC), we used the indicator value (IndVal) method (Dufrêne and Legendre 1997; Claudet et al. 2006). The value given is the product of relative abundance and relative frequency of occurrence of a compound within a group. The statistical significance of an indicator compound (threshold of 0.01) was evaluated with a randomization procedure (Dufrêne and Legendre, 1997).

119

120

121

122

123

124

125

126

127

128

129

130

131

132

133

134

135

136

137

138

139

In order to visualize the indicator compounds, we compared *B. filchnerae* and its sister species

142 B. muscorum by principal component analyses (PCA; R-package MASS, (Venables and

143 Ripley, 2002)).

144 RESULTS

- 145 129 compounds were detected in the CLGS of the species belonging to *Thoracobombus*
- subgenus: 36 in B. deuteronymus superequester, 70 in B. exil, 33 in B. filchnerae, 35 in B.
- *muscorum* and 42 in *B. humilis* (Supplementary file 1).
- The main compounds detected were (i) for B. deuteronymus superequester: octadec-11-en-1-
- ol (44.40% 57.05%); (ii) for *B. exil*: hexadec-9-enal (0.04% 44.35%), octadec-9-enoic acid
- 150 (1.36% 15.20%), icos-11-en-1-ol (0.20% 8.88%) and hexadecenyl hexadecenoate (0.69% -
- 151 10.53%); (iii) for *B. filchnerae and B. muscorum*: octadec-9-enyl acetate (40.49% 75.96%)
- and (iv) for B. humilis subbaicalensis: octadec-9-en-1-ol (40.12% 56.64%) (Tab. 2;
- supplementary file 1).
- Our chemical analyses showed qualitative differentiations between all taxa including specific
- main compounds (i.e. compounds that have the highest relative amount among all compounds
- of CLGS at least in one individual of the taxon) except between B. filchnerae and B.
- *muscorum* (Tab. 2) where only minor compounds diverged (Tab. 3).
- Our statistical analyses confirmed the differentiations of our sampling in five groups
- supported by high multiscale bootstrap resampling values: (i) B. exil, (ii) B. humilis
- subbaicalensis, (iii) B. deuteronymus superequester, (iv) B. filchnerae and (v) B. muscorum
- 161 (Fig. 2A). Moreover, a multiple response permutation procedure (MRPP) confirmed these
- differentiations (all p-values < 0.001): B. deuteronymus vs B. exil (A= 0.2993); B.
- deuteronymus vs B. filchnerae (A=0.3326); B. deuteronymus vs B. humilis (A=0.3868); B.
- deuteronymus vs B. muscorum (A=0.2551); B. exil vs B. filchnerae (A=0.2876); B. exil vs B.
- humilis (A=0.3059); B. exil vs B. muscorum (A=0.2501); B. filchnerae vs B. humilis

(A=0.3547); *B. filchnerae vs B. muscorum* (A=0.186) and *B. humilis vs B. muscorum* (A=0.2648). Several significant indicator compounds were revealed by the IndVal method (IndVal > 0.70) (Supplementary file 1).

169 DISCUSSION

166

167

168

170

171

172

173

174

175

176

177

178

179

180

181

182

183

184

185

186

187

188

189

190

B. humilis subbaicalensis and B. deuteronymus superequester. Based on main and abundant compounds (Tab. 1), our CLGS analyses underline a differentiation between B. humilis subbaicalensis and B. deuteronymus superequester (Fig. 2A). This differentiation is also observed in genetic markers between these two species (Cameron et al. 2007). However, both genetic and chemical analyses are based on few samples only. This could lead to a misestimation of the inter-taxon differentiation (Lecocq et al. 2015c). Further studies based on larger sampling are needed to assess this differentiation. The intraspecific variability of main compounds in Bombus exil. Bombus exil is characterized by a high intraspecific variability of its CLGS composition (supplementary file 1). Indeed, B. exil displays four main components (Tab. 2) and 45 indicator compounds (supplementary file 1). Moreover, males of B. exil have the last three articles of the antennae broadened and ventrally concave (Tkalců 1974) (Fig. 1D). They press this clubbed part of the antennae against the lower part of the face of female bees in a characteristic way (P. Williams: com. pers. based on unpublished personal observations from Moerdaga, Neimenggu, 18/08/2009). These modified antennae deserve more functional morphology studies and histological researches dealing particularly on the sensillae in the concave area on the last article. The case of Bombus filchnerae and B. muscorum questions the role of minor compounds. As mentioned in Terzo et al. (2005) for B. ruderarius, it is possible that abundant compounds are absent within a same taxon (i.e. for B. filchnerae; Tab. 1). Despite this intraspecific variability, low interspecific CLGS differentiation is observed between B. muscorum and B.

filchnerae (Supplementary file 1; Tab. 2,3; Fig. 2 A,B). Such a low CLGS differentiation

pattern could be explained by (i) the conspecificity of the two taxa or (ii) the lack of role of CLGS in pre-mating communication. While further taxonomic assessment is needed, we speculate that the latter hypothesis could explain our results. First, CLGS is a complex mixture of (mainly aliphatic) compounds (Calam 1969; Coppée et al. 2008) that can be classified into four groups: (i) C1 to C4 exclusively considered as gas; (ii) C5 to C8 considered as volatile liquids; (iii) C9 to C16 as non-volatile liquids and (iv) C16 and more considered as solid at a temperature of 20°C (Cicolella 2008). By comparing composition between these two species and other *Thoracobombus* (B. exil, B. deuteronymus superequester, B. humilis subbaicalensis, B. pascuorum, B. inexspectatus, B. ruderarius and B. sylvarum) (Terzo et al. 2005; Lecocq et al. 2015b; Brasero et al. 2017), we highlight that the chemical profile of B. filchnerae and B. muscorum is characterized by a high concentrated component of the length C18 in the beginning of the spectra while they are mostly C16 in the other species of *Thoracobombus*. This could suggest that the CLGS of *B. muscorum* and *B.* filchnerae are not used for long distance intersex attraction but rather could play a recognition role at a short distance. This is further supported by observed and described aggregations of B. muscorum males in close proximity to mature nests entrance in order to mate with virgin queens (Krüger 1951; Darvill et al. 2007). Considering these observations, a sexual selection favoring reproductive isolation through CLGS divergence is not expected if reproductive isolation is mediated by alternative cues such as nest site choice (i.e. the habitat) or nest scent. Further studies on the pre-mating recognition of bumblebee species are needed to assess this hypothesis. While most authors only take into account the major compounds in their discussion, our results show that between B. filchnerae and B. muscorum, the CLGS differentiation is marked on minor compounds. This observation questions the role of these minor compounds on

191

192

193

194

195

196

197

198

199

200

201

202

203

204

205

206

207

208

209

210

211

212

213

odorant information in the bumblebee brain will provide first elements of thought. Indeed, several neural coding studies in Hymenoptera have shown the capacity of their olfactory system to grant special properties to mixtures of pheromonal components as well as to recognize individual components (Galizia and Menzel 2001; Sandoz 2012; Carcaud et al. 2015). In social insects, species use a wide range of different components which induce a simultaneous activation of several classes of olfactory receptor neurons (Sandoz et al. 2007). In honey bees, most of the results were obtained using volatile hydrocarbons that differ in carbon chain length (C5-C10) and functional groups (Sachse et al. 1999; Carcaud et al. 2012). However, some studies addressed the effect of temperature on neural responses to odorants of low volatility (Carcaud et al. 2015) and realized that brood and queen compounds (C10 to C20) were detected only at hive temperature, i.e. around 35°C (Brill et al. 2013; Carcaud et al. 2015). Since environmental conditions appear to influence the neural response to odorants (Carcaud et al. 2015), it is difficult to identify which compounds emitted by the CLGS of males induce an neuronal answer under natural conditions in bumblebees (in or out of the nest). In vivo calcium imaging or neural representation studies, as developed in Carcaud et al (2012) and Strube-Bloss et al. (2015), tested in wild conditions (temperature and humidity) would mark a great first step to go deeper into the biological relevance understanding of the emitted males message by observing what is or is not detected by females.

bumblebee olfaction. In this perspective, an approach on the neuronal process induced by

215

216

217

218

219

220

221

222

223

224

225

226

227

228

229

230

231

232

233

234

241

242

243 REFERENCES

- An J, Huang J, Shao Y, Zhang S, Wang B, Liu X, Wu J, Williams PH (2014) The bumblebees
- of North China (Apidae, *Bombus* Latreille). Zootaxa 3880 (1): 001-089
- Ayasse M, Jarau S (2014) Chemical ecology of bumble bees. Annu Rev Entomol 59: 299–319
- Bagnères AG, Uva P, Clément JL (2003) Description d'une nouvelle espèce de Termite:
- 248 Reticulitermes urbis n.sp. (Isopt., Rhinotermitidae). Bull Soc Entomol Fr 108: 433–435
- 249 Bergström G, Svensson BG, Appelgren M, Groth I (1981) Complexity of bumble bee
- 250 marking pheromones: biochemical, ecological and systematical interpretations. SystAss
- 251 special vo: 175–183
- Bertsch A, Schweer H, Titze A (2004) Analysis of the labial gland secretions of the male
- bumblebee Bombus griseocollis (Hymenoptera: Apidae). Z Naturforsch Section C Journal of
- 254 Biosciences 59: 701–707
- Bertsch A, Schweer H, Titze A (2008) Chemistry of the cephalic labial gland secretions of
- 256 male Bombus morrisoni and B. rufocinctus, two North American bumblebee males with
- perching behavior. J Chem Ecol 34: 1268–1274
- Bertsch A, Schweer H (2011) Labial gland marking secretions of male Bombus lucorum
- bumblebees from Europe and China reveal two separate species: B. lucorum (Linnaeus 1761)
- and Bombus minshanicola (Bischoff 1936). Biochem Syst Ecol 39 (4-6): 587-593
- Brasero N, Martinet B, Urbanová K, Valterová I, Torres A, Hoffmann W, Rasmont P, Lecocq
- T (2015) First Chemical Analysis and Characterization of the Male Species-Specific Cephalic
- Labial-Gland Secretions of South American Bumblebees. Chem Biodivers 12: 1535–1546
- Brasero N, Martinet B, Lecocq T, Lhomme P, Biella P, Valterova I, Urbanova K, Cornalba
- 265 M, Hines H, Rasmont P (2017) The cephalic labial gland secretions of two socially parasitic
- 266 bumblebees Bombus hyperboreus (Alpinobombus) and Bombus inexspectatus
- 267 (Thoracobombus) question their inquiline strategy. Insect Sci 00: 1–12
- Brill MF, Rosenbaum T, Reus I, Kleineidam CJ, Nawrot MP, Rössler W (2013) Parallel
- processing via a dual olfactory pathway in the honeybee. J Neurosci 33: 2443–2456
- 270 Calam DH (1969) Species and Sex-specific Compounds from the Heads of Male Bumblebees
- 271 (Bombus spp.). Nature 221: 856–857
- 272 Cameron SA, Hines HM, Williams PH (2007) A comprehensive phylogeny of the bumble
- 273 bees (Bombus). Biol J Linnean Soc 91: 161–188
- 274 Carcaud J, Hill T, Guirfa M, Sandoz J-C (2012) Differential coding by two olfactory
- subsystems in the honeybee brain. J Neurophysiol 108: 1106–1121
- 276 Carcaud J, Giurfa M, Sandoz J-C (2015) Differential Combinatorial Coding of Pheromones in
- Two Olfactory Subsystems of the Honey Bee Brain. J Neurosci 35: 4157–4167

- 278 Cicolella A (2008) Les composés organiques volatils (COV): définition, classification et
- 279 propriétés. Rev Mal Respir 25: 155–163
- Claudet J, Pelletier D, Jouvenel JY, Bachet F, Galzin R (2006) Assessing the effects of marine
- protected area (MPA) on a reef fish assemblage in a northwestern Mediterranean marine
- reserve: Identifying community-based indicators. Biol Conserv 130: 349–369
- 283 Coppée A, Terzo M, Valterová I, Rasmont P (2008) Intraspecific variation of the cephalic
- labial gland secretions in Bombus terrestris (L.) (Hymenoptera: Apidae). Chem Biodivers 5:
- 285 2654–2661
- Cvacka J, Kofronová E, Vasícková S, Stránský K, Jiros P, Hovorka O, Kindl J, Valterová I
- 287 (2008) Unusual fatty acids in the fat body of the early nesting bumblebee, Bombus pratorum.
- 288 Lipids 43: 441–50
- Dalla Torre KW (1880) Unsere Hummel-(Bombus) Arten. Die Naturhistoriker 30: 40–41
- 290 Darvill B, Lye GC, Goulson D (2007) Aggregations of male Bombus muscorum
- 291 (Hymenoptera: Apidae) at mature nest. Incestuous brothers or amorous suitors? Apidologie
- 292 38: 518–524
- Dellicour S, Lecocq T (2013a) GCALIGNER 1.0 and GCKOVATS 1.0 Manual of a
- software suite to compute a multiple sample comparison data matrix from eco-chemical
- 295 datasets obtained by gas chromatography. University of Mons, Mons
- Dellicour S, Lecocq T (2013b) GCALIGNER 1.0: a alignment program to compute a multiple
- 297 sample comparison data matrix from large eco-chemical datasets obtained by gas
- chromatography. J Sep Sci 36: 3206-3209
- De Meulemeester T, Gerbaux P, Boulvin M, Coppée A, Rasmont P (2011) A simplified
- protocol for bumble bee species identification by cephalic secretion analysis. Insectes Soc 58:
- 301 227–236
- 302 Dufrêne M, Legendre P (1997) Species assemblages and indicator species: The need for a
- 303 flexible asymmetrical approach. Ecol Monogr 67: 345–366
- Fonta C, Masson C (1984) Comparative study by electrophysiology of olfactory responses in
- bumblebees (Bombus hypnorum and Bombus terrestris). J Chem Ecol 10: 1157–1168
- Galizia CG, Menzel R (2001) The role of glomeruli in the neural representation of odours:
- results from optical recording studies. J Insect *Physiol* 47: 115–130
- 308 Hay ME (2011) Crustaceans as powerful models in aquatic chemical ecology. In: Thiel TB
- and M (ed) Chemical communication in crustaceans. Springer, New York, pp 41–62
- Krüger E (1951) Über die Bahnflüge der Männchen der Gattungen Bombus und Psithyrus. Z
- 311 Tierpsychol 8: 61–75

- Lecocq T, Coppée A, Mathy T, Lhomme P, Cammaerts-Tricot MC, Urbanová K, Valterová I,
- Rasmont P (2015a) Subspecific differentiation in male reproductive traits and virgin queen
- 314 preferences, in *Bombus terrestris*. Apidologie 26: 595–605
- Lecocq L, Brasero N, Martinet B, Valterova I, Rasmont P (2015b) Highly polytypic taxon
- 316 complex: interspecific and intraspecific integrative taxonomic assessment of the widespread
- pollinator Bombus pascuorum Scopoli 1763 (Hymenoptera: Apidae). Syst Entomol 40: 881–
- 318 890
- Lecocq T, Dellicour S, Michez D, Dehon M, Dewulf A, De Meulemeester T, Brasero N,
- Valterová I, Rasplus JY, Rasmont P (2015c) Methods for species delimitation in bumblebees
- 321 (Hymenoptera, Apidae, Bombus): towards an integrative approach. Zool Scr 44(3): 1-17
- Lecocq T, Brasero N, De Meulemeester T, Michez D, Dellicour S, Lhomme P, de Jonghe R,
- Valterová I, Urbanová K, Rasmont P (2015d) An integrative taxonomic approach to assess the
- status of Corsican bumblebees: implications for conservation. Anim Conserv 18: 236–148
- Lhomme P, Sramkova A, Kreuter K, Lecocq T, Rasmont P, Ayasse M (2013) A method for
- year-round rearing of cuckoo bumblebees (Hymenoptera: Apoidea: Bombus subgenus
- 327 Psithyrus ). Ann Soc entomol Fr (*N.S.*) 49: 37–41
- Lhomme P, Ayasse M, Valterová I, Lecocq T, Rasmont P (2015) A scent shield to survive:
- 329 identification of the repellent compounds secreted by the male offspring of the cuckoo
- bumblebee Bombus vestalis. Entomol Exp Appl 157: 263–270
- Linné C de (1758) Systema Naturae. I. (Laurentii Salvii, Ed.). Holmiae
- Lockey KH (1991) Insect hydrocarbon classes: Implications for chemotaxonomy. Insect
- 333 Biochem 21: 91–97
- Luxová A, Valterová I, Stránský K, Hovorka O, Svatoš A (2003) Biosynthetic studies on
- marking pheromones of bumblebee males. Chemoecology 13: 81–87
- Michener CD (1990) Classification of the Apidae (Hymenoptera). Univ Kans publ, Mus Nat
- 337 Hist 54: 75–164
- Oksanen FJ, Blanchet G, Kindt R, Legendre P, Minchin PR, O'Hara RB, Simpson GL,
- 339 Solymos P, Stevens MHH, Wagner H (2011) Vegan: Community Ecology Package
- Patricelli GL, Uy JAC, Borgia G (2003) Multiple male traits interact: Attractive bower
- decorations facilitate attractive behavioural displays in satin bowerbirds. Proc R Soc Lond B
- 342 Biol Sci 270: 2389–2395
- Pokorny T, Lunau K, Quezada-Euan JJG (2014) Cuticular hydrocarbons distinguish cryptic
- sibling species in Euglossa orchid bees. Apidologie 45: 276–283
- Quicke DL (1993) Chemotaxonomy and related topics. In: Principles and Techniques of
- 346 Contemporary Taxonomy . Springer, Netherlands, pp 146-154

- R Development Core Team (2013) R: a language and environment for statistical computing.
- Vienna: R Foundation for Statistical Computing. ISBN 3-900051-07-0
- 349 http://www.R-project.org (accessed ••)

- Rasmont P, Terzo M, Aytekin AM, Hines H, Urbanová K, Cahliková L, Valterová I (2005)
- 352 Cephalic secretions of the bumblebee subgenus Sibiricobombus Vogt suggest Bombus
- 353 niveatus Kriechbaumer and Bombus vorticosus Gerstaecker are conspecific (Hymenoptera,
- 354 Apidae, Bombus). Apidologie 36: 571–584
- Sachse S, Rappert A, Galizia CG (1999) The spatial representation of chemical structures in
- the antennal lobe of honeybees: steps towards the olfactory code. J Neurosci 11: 3970–3982
- 357 Sandoz JC, Deisig N, de Brito Sanchez MG, Giurfa M (2007) Understanding the logics of
- 358 pheromone processing in the honeybee brain: from labeledlines to across-fiber patterns. Front
- 359 Behav Neurosci 1: 5
- 360 Sandoz JC (2012) Olfaction in honey bees: From molecules to behavior. In: Galizia G,
- 361 Eisenhardt D and Giurfa M (ed), Honeybee neurobiology and behavior. A tribute to Randolf
- Menzel.). Springer, Dordrecht, the Netherlands, pp 235–252
- 363 Skorikov AS (1914) Les formes nouvelles des bourdons (Hymenoptera, Bombidae). V.
- 364 Russkoe éntomologicheskoe Obozrênie 14: 119–129
- 365 Skorikov AS (1923) [Palaearctic bumblebees. Part I. General biology (including
- zoogeography)]. Izv Severn Obl *Stantsii* Zashch Rast Vredit 4: 1–160
- 367 Strube-Bloss MF, Brown A, Spaethe J, Schmitt T, Rössler W (2015) Extracting the
- 368 Behaviorally Relevant Stimulus: Unique Neural Representation of Farnesol, a Component of
- the Recruitment Pheromone of Bombus terrestris. PloS one 10: e0137413
- 370 Suzuki R, Shimodaira H. (2011) Pvclust: Hierarchical Clustering with P-values via Multiscale
- 371 Bootstrap Resampling. Contributed package. Version 1-1.10. R Foundation for Statistical
- 372 Computing, Vienna.
- 373 http://www.R-project.org
- 374 Svensson BG, Bergström G (1979) Marking pheromones of Alpinobombus males. J Chem
- 375 Ecol 5 (4): 603-615
- 376 Terzo M, Valterová I, Urbanová K, Rasmont P (2003) De la nécessité de redécrire les
- 377 phéromones sexuelles des mâles de bourdons [Hymenoptera: Apidae, Bombini] publiées
- avant 1996 pour leur utilisation en analyse phylogénétique. Phytoprotection 84: 39–49
- 379 Terzo M, Urbanová K, Valterová I, Rasmont P (2005) Intra and interspecific variability of the
- cephalic labial glands' secretions in male bumblebees: the case of Bombus (Thoracobombus)
- ruderarius and B. (Thoracobombus) sylvarum Hymenoptera, Apidae. Apidologie 36: 85–96
- 382 Terzo M, Valterová I, Rasmont P (2007) Atypical secretions of the male cephalic labial
- 383 glands in bumblebees: The case of Bombus (Rhodobombus) mesomelas
- 384 Gerstaecker(Hymenoptera, Apidae). Chem Biodivers 4: 1466–1471

385 386 387	Tkalců B (1974) Ergebnise der 1. und 2. mongolisch-tschechoslowakischen entomologisch-botanischen Expedition in der Mongolei Nr. 29: Hymenoptera, Apoidea, Bombinae. – Acta faunistica entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae 15: 25-58
388	Venables WN, Ripley BD (2002) Modern Applied Statistics with S. Springer, Queensland
389 390 391	Vogt O (1908) Bombi (Hummeln). Wissenschaftliche Ergebnisse von Expedition Filchner nach China und Thibet 1903-1905, X. Band - I. Teil, 1. Abschnitt: Zoologische Sammlungen, Berlin.100–101
392 393 394	Vogt O (1911) Studien über das Artproblem. 2. Mitteilung. über das Variieren der Hummeln. 2. Teil (Schluss). Schriften der berlinischen Gesellschaft Naturforschender, Freunde, Berlin 1911: 31–74
395 396 397	Williams PH (1998) An annotated checklist of bumble bees with an analysis of patterns of description (Hymenoptera: Apidae, Bombini). <i>Bulletin of The Natural History Museum (Entomology)</i> 67: 79–152
398 399 400	Žáček P, Prchalová-Horňáková D, Tykva R, Kindl J, Vogel H, Svatoš A, Pichová I, Valterová I (2013) De novo biosynthesis of sexual pheromone in the labial gland of bumblebee males. Chembiochem 14: 361–371
401	
402	
403	
404	
405	
406	
407	
408	
409	
410	
411	
412	
413 414	
747	

### 415 Figure Legends



**Fig. 1** A: *Bombus deuteronymus superequester* from Mongolia (photo: P. Rasmont). B: *B. filchnerae* from Mongolia (photo: P. Rasmont). C: *B. humilis subbaicalensis* from Mongolia (photo: P. Rasmont). D: *B. exil* from Mongolia (photo: P. Rasmont). E: *B. muscorum muscorum* from Holland. F: *B. muscorum liepetterseni* from Norway

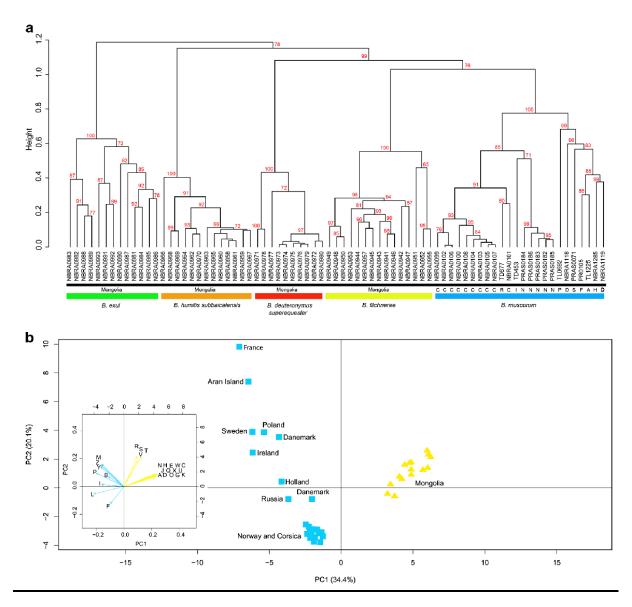


Fig. 2 A: Unweighted pair group method with arithmetic mean cluster based on a correlation matrix calculated from matrix of cephalic labial gland secretions of Bombus deuteronymus superequester, B. filchnerae, B. humilis subbaicalensis, B. exil and B. muscorum. Values above branch represent multiscale bootstrap resampling. The letters indicate the geographic origins (C: Corsica; R: Russia; I: Ireland; N: Norway, P: Poland, D: Denmark; S: Sweden, F: France, A: Aran island and H: Holland). B: CLGS Principle components analyses (PCA) of B. muscorum (blue squares) and B. filchnerae (yellow squares). PC1 and PC2 are first and second axes of PCA. In the left corner, the variable factor map. Each letter (code) correspond to characteristic compounds revealed by IndVal method (Tab. 3)

#### Supplementary file

**Supplementary file 1** - Data matrix of cephalic labial gland secretions (CLGS) (relative concentration of each compound), list of the identified compounds, kovats indice and IndVal analysis with specific compounds in *B. deuteronymus superequester*, *B. exil*, *B. filchnerae*, *B. muscorum* and *B. humilis subbaicalensis*. U indicates undetermined compounds.

*Table* 

#### <u>Table 1</u>. SAMPLING

Taxa	Collecting sites	Coordinates	N		
Thoracobombus subgenus					
B. deuteronymus superequester	Mongolia, Tov, Terelj	47°59'28.0"N 107°22'25.7"E	10		
(Skorikov, 1914)					
<b>B. filchnerae</b> Vogt, 1908	Mongolia, Tov, Terelj	47°59'28.0"N 107°22'25.7"E	15		
B. muscorum muscorum (L., 1758)	Sweden, Ystad, Mossbystrand	55°25'10"N 13°38'55"E			
	Poland, Olsztynski, Wójtowo	53°47'11"N 20°35'33"E	1		
	Siberia, Irkutsk Obl., Ust'-Ordinskiy	52°54'51.98"N 105°04'29.96"E	1		
	Ireland, Clare, Ennis	52°51'37"N 09°02'12"W	1		
	France, Oriental Pyrenees, Corbère	42°39'34"N 02°40'07"E	1		
	Holland, Zuid-Beijerland, Tiengemeten	51°44'37.1"N 04°19'04.8"E	1		
	Denmark, Viborg, Moldrup	56°37'01.37"N 09°30'01.34"E	2		
<b>B.</b> muscorum pereziellus (Skorikov 1922)	France, Corse, Palneca	42°42'42"N 09°11'27"E	10		
<b>B.</b> muscorum liepetterseni Löken 1973	Norway, Flatanger	64°28'11"N 10°43'16"E	5		
B. muscorum allenellus Stelfox, 1933	Ireland, Galway, Inishmore	53°07'42"N 09°43'54"W	1		
<b>B. humilis subbaicalensis</b> Vogt, 1911	Mongolia, Tov, Terelj	47°59'45.7"N 107°19'46.1"E			
	Mongolia, Arkhangai, Tsenker	47°07'40.4"N 101°57'04.5"E	1		
	Mongolia, Arkhangai, Kharkhorin	47°03'50.3"N 102°12'23.6"E	8		
<b>B.</b> exil (Skorikov 1923)	Mongolia, Tov, Terelj	47°59'45.7"N 107°19'46.1"E	13		
B. exil (Skorikov 1923)	Mongolia, Tov, Terelj	47°59'45.7"N 107°19'46.1"E	1		

Collecting sites and number (N) of bred specimens for Bombus deuteronymus superequester,

<sup>440</sup> B. filchnerae, B. humilis subbaicalensis and B. exil, B. muscorum were integrated in the study

- in order to check their CLGS composition with their East-Palearctic subspecies or closely
- related species. Coordinate are given with the reference to the WGS84.

Table 2. LIST OF MAIN COMPOUNDS

Compounds	Carbons	MW	B. deuteronymus superequester		B. exil		B. filchnerae		B. muscorum			B. humilis subbaicalensis					
			Min	M	Max	Min	M	Max	Min	М	Max	Min	M	Max	Min	M	Max
Octadec-11-en-1-ol	C18	268	44.40	47.09	57.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	9.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.83	8.84	10.81
Hexadec-9-enal	C16	238	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	2.05	44.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Octadec-9-enoic acid	C18	282	0.21	0.32	0.56	1.36	8.67	15.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Icos-11-en-1-ol	C20	296	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	4.21	8.88	0.02	0.06	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hexadecenyl	C32	476	0.27	0.40	0.50	0.69	6.81	10.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
hexadecenoate1																	
Octadec-9-enyl acetate	C20	310	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.49	65.96	75.96	50.45	65.38	88.38	0.06	0.29	2.65
Octadec-9-en-1-ol	C18	268	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.64	1.39	2.90	10.69	17.06	34.53	4.14	26.34	31.16	40.12	44.71	56.64

Main compounds (grey background) identified in cephalic labial gland secretions of *Bombus deuteronymus superequester*, *B. exil*, *B. filchnerae*, *B. muscorum* and *B. humilis subbaicalensis*. Carbons: the number of carbon atoms; MW: the molecular weight; M: median of relative concentration of compound (%). Abundant compounds are on black background. All identified compounds in Supplementary file1.

<u>Table 3</u>. LIST OF COMPOUNDS CALCULATED WITH THE INDICATOR VALUE (INDVAL) METHOD FOR *B. MUSCORUM* AND *B. FILCHNERAE* 

	Compounds			Indval	results	M (%)			
Name	carbons	Code		B. filchnerae	B. muscorum	B. filchnerae	B. muscorum		
Hexadecan-1-ol	C16	Α	242	0.89	0.08	1.08	0.15		
Octadec-9-enal	C18	В	266	0	0.92	0	0.06		
Hexadecyl acetate	C20	C	284	1	0	0.58	0		
Octadec-11-en-1-ol	C18	D	268	0.93	0	5	0		
Octadecanol	C18	E	270	0.87	0	0.02	0		
Octadecadienoic acid	C18	F	280	0	0.85	0	0.11		
<b>U3</b>	/	G	/	0.73	0	0.10	0		
Icos-11-en-1-ol	C20	Н	296	1	0	0.05	0		
Tricos-7-ene	C23	I	322	$\overline{0}$	0.79	0	0.20		
Icos-11-enyl-acetate	C22	J	338	1	0	0.07	0		
Icos-13-enyl-acetate	C22	K	338	1	0	0.07	0		
Tetracosane	C24	L	338	$\overline{0}$	1	0	0.15		
Pentacos-9-ene	C25	M	350	0.28	0.72	0.39	0.71		
<b>U7</b>	/	N	/	0.73	0	0.14	0		
Heptacos-11-ene	C27	O	378	1	0	0.86	0		
Heptacos-7-ene	C27	P	378	0	1	0	0.14		
Nonacosene	C29	Q	406	1	0	0.14	0		
Nonacos-9-ene	C29	R	406	0.71	0.27	0.56	0.11		
Nonacos-7-ene	C29	S	406	0.71	0.06	0.18	0		
Nonacosane	C29	T	408	0.78	0.11	0.50	0.08		
Hentriacont-9-ene	C31	U	434	1	0	0.17	0		
Hentriacontane	C31	V	436	0.8	0.06	0.08	0		
Hexadecenyl octadecenoate3	C34	W	504	1	0	0.10	0		
Octadec-9-enyl	C34	X	506	1	0	0.05	0		
hexadecanoate2									
Octadecenyl octadecenoate2	C36	Y	532	0	0.96	0	0.37		
Octadecenyl octadecanoate	C36	Z	534	0	11	0	0.18		

List of compounds identified in cephalic labial gland secretions of *B. muscorum* and *B. filchnerae* after the identification of characteristic compounds (grey background) calculated with the Indicator Value (IndVal) method (>0.70). MW: the molecular weight; M: median of relative concentration of compound (%).

The compounds we were not able to determine are indicated as *Ux*. The full table with minimum and maximum data (min and max [%]) are in the supplementary file 1.