

# Chapter 5

## Herbivore-Induced Defenses in Rice and Their Potential Application in Rice Planthopper Management

Yonggen Lou, Lingfei Hu and Jiancai Li

**Abstract** Upon attacked by insect herbivores, plants can activate a range of defenses that result in direct and/or indirect resistance to subsequent challenge by a herbivore. Significant development in understanding of the physiological and molecular basis of these herbivore-induced plant defense responses has been achieved over the past decade. Our understanding of these defense responses has led to new ideas of herbivore management methods that can be environmental friendly and safer. We studied the responses of rice, one of the most important food crops of the world, to infestation by insect herbivores, including rice planthoppers. In this review, we first briefly summarize the fundamentals and molecular basis of herbivore-induced rice defense responses. We then introduce the methods of planthopper management in rice that could be exploited. These methods include using herbivore-induced plant volatiles (HIPVs) as attractants of the natural enemies, the application of chemical elicitors, and the genetic modification of crop variety. Finally, some insights are given about the directions of future research and how to tap this opportunity of herbivore-induced plant defense response in rice pest management.

**Keywords** Rice planthoppers · Herbivore-induced plant defense response · Herbivore-induced plant volatiles · Chemical elicitors · Tritrophic interactions

### 5.1 Introduction

In nature, plants suffer from various biotic stresses, such as herbivores and pathogens. In order to protect themselves, plants have evolved a series of defense mechanisms (Wu and Baldwin 2010; Arimura et al. 2011; Bonaventure et al. 2011;

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Y. Lou (✉) · L. Hu · J. Li  
Institute of Insect Sciences, Zhejiang University,  
866 Yuhangtang Road, Hangzhou 310058, China

Hilker and Meiners 2011; Erb et al. 2012). These strategies include constitutive defenses, which exist in plants before pest attack, and induced defenses, which are activated following attack.

Plant-induced defenses, which can be elicited by feeding or oviposition of herbivores, are known to be triggered by elicitors derived from herbivores and/or the interaction between plants and herbivores (Mithöfer and Boland 2008; Heil 2009; Wu and Baldwin 2010; Arimura et al. 2011; Bonaventure et al. 2011; Hilker and Meiners 2011; Erb et al. 2012). Induced plant defenses may positively or negatively influence the performance of subsequent herbivores directly or indirectly by influencing the effectiveness of the natural enemies of the herbivores (Bostock 2005; Howe and Jander 2008; Baldwin 2010; Heil and Karban 2010; War et al. 2011; Mithöfer and Boland 2012; Clavijo McCormick et al. 2012). For example, herbivore infestation induces some plants to release volatiles and/or produce extrafloral nectar, both of which can influence the behavior and performance of the predators and parasitoids of herbivores (Baldwin 2010; Erb et al. 2012; Peñaflor and Bento 2013). Moreover, these plant-mediated interactions may occur not only among above-ground herbivores but also between above-ground herbivores and below-ground herbivores (Erb et al. 2012). Thus, herbivore-induced plant defense responses play an important role in modulating the composition of the arthropod community and structure in an ecosystem (Kessler et al. 2007; Zheng and Dicke 2008). Some of these plant defense traits, such as volatiles attracting natural enemies of herbivores and elicitors inducing plant defense, can enhance the efficiency of natural enemies and/or reducing the performance of herbivores; these could be exploited for new measures for managing herbivores (War et al. 2011; Peñaflor and Bento 2013).

Rice is one of the most important food crops of the world. It suffers from many insect pests. In China, the main rice insect pests include rice planthoppers—brown planthopper (BPH) *Nilaparvata lugens* (Stål), white-backed planthopper (WBPH) *Sogatella furcifera* (Horváth), and small brown planthopper (SBPH) *Laodelphax striatellus* (Fallen); rice borers—striped stem borer (SSB) *Chilo suppressalis* (Walker) and *Scircophaga incertulas* (Walker); and rice leaf folder (LF) *Cnaphalocrocis medinalis* Guenee. In some regions, the water weevil *Lissorhoptrus oryzophilus* Kuschel, the gall midge *Orseolia oryzae* (Wood-Mason), and the thrip *Chlothrips oryzae* (Wil.) also heavily infest rice. To prevent rice plants from herbivore infestation, some control methods have been tried. The major control methods include resistant varieties, cultural controls, biological controls, and chemical controls (Lou et al. 2013). However, since the number of rice varieties resistant to herbivores is small, and cultural and biological controls are labor consuming and less efficient, the major control measure for rice insect pests is the use of insecticides. These not only cause severe environmental pollution but also lead eventually to the resurgence of herbivores and reduce populations of the natural enemies. Therefore, developing safe and effective methods for managing rice insect pests is essential.

Rice plants have also been reported to produce defense responses following attack by insect pests, including rice planthoppers (Lou et al. 2005a, b, 2006; Zhou

et al. 2009, 2011; Lu et al. 2011; Qi et al. 2011). These defense responses may influence the performance of the subsequent conspecific and non-conspecific herbivores directly and/or indirectly by regulating the third trophic level (Lou et al. 2005a, b, 2006; Zhao et al. 2001, 2009, 2011; Lu et al. 2011; Qi et al. 2011). Moreover, a few studies have revealed that induced rice defense responses are able to modulate the arthropod community composition and the population densities of insect pests in the field (Xiao et al. 2012). Therefore, appropriately inducing rice defense traits may decrease the population densities of rice insect pests, in turn reducing the amount of chemical insecticides.

In this review, we first summarize the fundamentals and molecular basis of herbivore-induced rice defense responses. Then, we introduce methods of managing rice insect pests, especially rice planthoppers, that could be exploited based on these defense responses. Finally, future research directions are proposed.

## 5.2 Herbivore-Induced Rice Defenses

Like many other plant species, such as *Arabidopsis*, tomato, and tobacco, rice produces defense responses when attacked by insect herbivores; these responses can influence the behavior and performance of subsequent herbivores directly and/or indirectly by attracting the natural enemies of herbivores (Chen et al. 2002; Lou et al. 2005a, b, 2006). Striped stem borer larvae fed on SSB larvae-infested plants grow slowly compared to those fed on non-manipulated plants (Zhou et al. 2009). In response to BPH infestation, rice plants release volatiles that attracts egg parasitoid *Anugrus nilaparvatae* (Lou et al. 2005a) and enhance the susceptibility of rice to WBPH (Zhao et al. 2001). Prior feeding by *Spodoptera frugiperda* or jasmonic acid (JA) treatment increases resistance in rice to the water weevil, *Lissorhoptrus oryzophilus*, a root-damaging herbivore (Hamm et al. 2010). Moreover, plants treated with JA significantly reduce number of immature *L. oryzophilus* relative to untreated plants. Like the other plant species, herbivore-induced rice defense responses also change with rice variety (Lou and Cheng 2003, 2006) and plant growth stage (Ma et al. 2004; Wang et al. 2011), herbivore species (Zhou et al. 2009; Lu et al. 2011), density, and infestation time (Ma et al. 2004; Xiang et al. 2008), and with abiotic factors, such as nitrogen levels (Lou and Cheng 2003). The information suggests that herbivore-induced rice defenses have strong plasticity and play an important role in shaping the composition of the arthropod community and structure in rice ecosystem.

The process by which herbivore attack induces a plant's defensive response is complicated. First, the plant has to recognize herbivore-associated molecular patterns (HAMPs); subsequently, these activate early events and multiple signaling pathways, such as a change in the plasma transmembrane potential ( $V_m$ ), calcium flux, calcium-dependent protein kinase (CDPK), and mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) cascades, and JA-, salicylic acid (SA)-, ethylene-, and  $H_2O_2$ -mediated pathways (Wu and Baldwin 2010; Arimura et al. 2011; Erb et al.

2012). The activated signals and pathways increase the levels of defense-related gene transcripts and defense-related compounds, and this increase causes plants to become resistant to subsequently attacking herbivores (Howe and Jander 2008; Wu and Baldwin 2010; Arimura et al. 2011; Bonaventure et al. 2011; Erb et al. 2012).

Thus far, several HAMPs, such as fatty acid–amino acid conjugates (FACs) (Alborn et al. 1997; Halitschke et al. 2001; Yoshinaga et al. 2007),  $\beta$ -glucosidase (Mattiacci et al. 1995), inceptin (Schmelz et al. 2007), caeliferins (Alborn et al. 2007), bruchins (Doss et al. 2000), and benzyl cyanide (Fatouros et al. 2008), have been identified. Like herbivore infestation, some of these HAMPs have been found to induce Vm change and calcium flux (Maffei et al. 2004; Arimura et al. 2011), as well as the activation of MAPKs and JA, and ethylene biosynthesis and signaling (Halitschke et al. 2001; Giri et al. 2006; Wu et al. 2007; Skibbe et al. 2008). Moreover, calcium flux, protein kinase (such as CDPK and MAPK) cascades, and JA-, SA-, ethylene-, and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-mediated signaling pathways have been confirmed to play a central role in shaping the specificity of herbivore-induced plant defense responses (Wu et al. 2007; Howe and Jander 2008; Wu and Baldwin 2010; Heinrich et al. 2011; Meldau et al. 2012; Mithofer and Boland 2012). However, nothing was known about plant receptors that perceive HAMPs. So far, only two possible receptors, lectin receptor kinase 1 (Gilardoni et al. 2011) and BAK1 (Yang et al. 2011), have been reported.

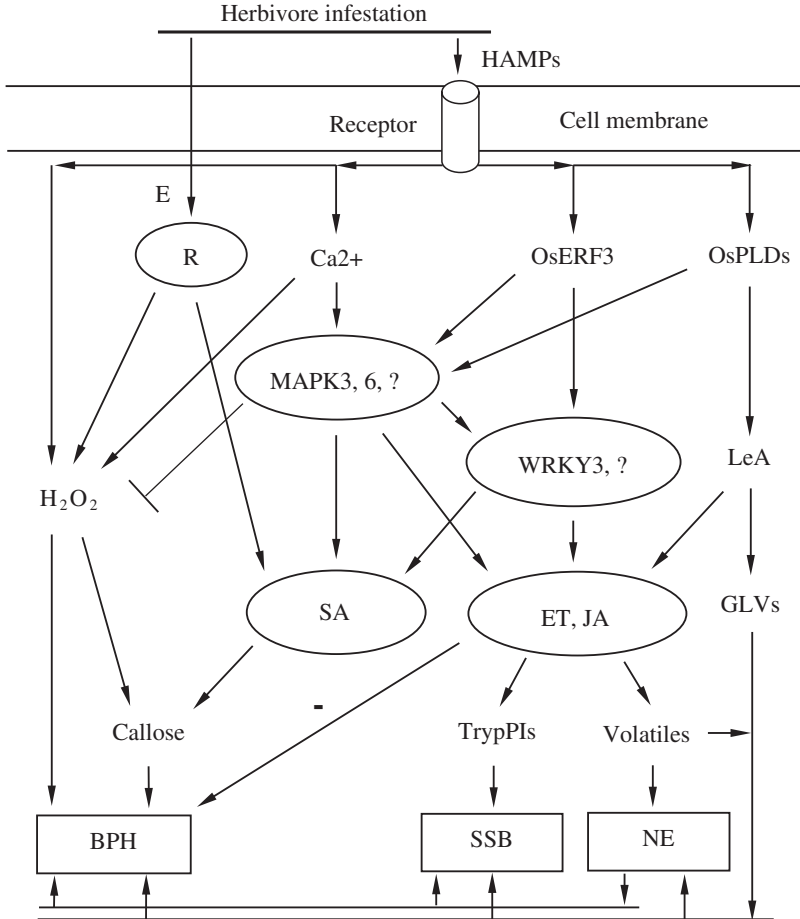
Studies on the mechanism underlying herbivore-induced rice defense also revealed that the process by which rice responds defensively is complex and involves changes in the transcript levels of many genes that belong to 18 functional groups and the reconfiguration of a wide variety of metabolic, physiological, and biochemical processes (Zhang et al. 2004; Hua et al. 2007; Zhou et al. 2011). An integrated signaling network consisting of phytohormones, especially JA, SA, and ethylene, and secondary signal transduction components, such as Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling, reactive oxygen species, G protein signaling, and protein kinases, underlies the entire process (Lu et al. 2006; Wang et al. 2008; Zhou et al. 2009, 2011; Lu et al. 2011; Qi et al. 2011). This signaling network alters the transcript levels of many genes by activating many transcription factors; the activation of these factors has many biological consequences, including the accumulation of defense chemicals and decreases in photosynthetic activity (Zhou et al. 2011).

Recently, several early components that regulate signaling pathways in rice have been identified. OsERF3, for example, has been found to function upstream of OsMPK3, JA, SA, ethylene, and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> pathways, and to positively regulate the biosynthesis of JA, SA, and ethylene but negatively modulate H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> production (Lu et al. 2011). OsPLD $\alpha$ 4 and  $\alpha$ 5 were reported to influence the production of JA and green leaf volatiles (GLVs), the products of the hydroperoxide lyase (HPL) branch of the oxylipin pathway (Qi et al. 2011). Bph14, a coiled-coil, nucleotide-binding, and leucine-rich repeat (CC-NB-LRR) protein predominantly expressed in vascular bundles, was found to confer resistance to BPH by activating an SA signaling pathway, inducing callose deposition in phloem cells and enhancing the

activity of trypsin protease inhibitors (TrypPis) after planthopper infestation (Du et al. 2009). OsMPK3 positively mediates the production of elicited JA, which subsequently affects levels of herbivore-induced TrypPis and decreases the performance of SSB larvae (Wang et al. 2013). These findings suggest that the herbivore-elicited rice defense responses are regulated by a set of signaling networks (Fig. 5.1).

Plants' defense responses to different herbivores are modulated by the different signaling pathways that they elicit (Howe and Jander 2008; Wu and Baldwin 2010; Meldau et al. 2012; Mithofer and Boland 2012). Various signaling pathways in rice were found to play different roles in modulating resistance to herbivores with different feeding habits. The resistance of rice to lepidopteran caterpillars, such as the larvae of SSB and LF, is mainly positively mediated by JA and ethylene signaling pathways, whereas resistance to piercing and sucking herbivores, such as BPHs, is modulated negatively by JA but positively by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and SA pathways (Zhou et al. 2009; Lu et al. 2011) (Fig. 5.1).

Research with numerous plant species has revealed that a great variety of constitutive and inducible chemicals, such as terpenoids, phenolics, alkaloids, glucosinolates, and cyanogenic glycosides, and defensive proteins, such as proteinase inhibitors (PIs), cysteine proteases, lectins, chitinases, and polyphenol oxidases (PPOs), have toxic or antifeedant effects on insect herbivores (Ryan 1990; Peumans et al. 1995; Wang and Constable 2004; Aharoni et al. 2005; Mohan et al. 2006; Howe and Jander 2008; Gill et al. 2010). Moreover, herbivore-induced plant volatiles (HIPVs) and GLVs have been reported to influence the behavior and/or performance of the subsequent herbivores directly and/or indirectly by attracting the predators and parasitoids (Kessler and Baldwin 2001; Degenhardt et al. 2003; Dicke and Baldwin 2010; Snoeren et al. 2010). In rice, the levels of some defense-related compounds, including PIs, phytoalexins, pathogenesis-related proteins, and terpenoids, were observed to be enhanced when plants were infested by herbivores or treated with defense-related signals, such as JA (Rakwal and Komatsu 2000; Zhou et al. 2009). In addition, the TrypPI activity, which was positively regulated by JA and ethylene signaling pathways (Zhou et al. 2009; Lu et al. 2011), negatively affected the performance of lepidopteran caterpillars, such as the larvae of SSB and LF (Zhou et al. 2009; Lu et al. 2011). Volatiles emitted from rice plants infested by herbivores or treated with JA can attract parasitoids and enhance the parasitism of herbivores (Lou et al. 2005a, b, 2006). Some volatiles, such as linalool and (*E*)- $\beta$ -caryophyllene (Xiao et al. 2012), as well as GLVs (Qi et al. 2011; Tong et al. 2012), were found to not only influence the efficiency of the natural enemies but also to affect the performance of herbivores, including BPHs, SSBs, and LFs (Fig. 5.1). Callose deposition in phloem cells, which could be induced by BPH infestation, was regarded as one of the resistance mechanisms of rice plants to BPH (Hao et al. 2008). Moreover, benzyl benzoate, a chemical that is elicited by WBPH egg deposition has been shown to increase ovicidal activity against WBPH (Seino et al. 1996). In general, defense compounds used against insect herbivores in rice were less well understood (Horgan 2009).



**Fig. 5.1** Current information on mechanisms responsible for herbivore-induced defense responses in rice. Rice plants recognize herbivore-associated molecular patterns (HAMPs) derived from herbivores or interaction with the plant and then activate components, such as calcium influx, OsERF3 and OsPLDs. These activated early components will elicit MAPK cascades, jasmonic acid (JA)-, salicylic acid (SA)-, ethylene (ET)-, and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-mediated signaling pathways, which in turn enhance levels of defense-related gene transcripts and defense compounds. This increases resistance to herbivores. Some herbivores may secrete effectors (E) which suppress the plant's defenses. However, for resistant varieties, plants possess resistance genes (R), such as BPH14, that will recognize the herbivore's effectors and activate the second layer of defense responses; this is known as effector-triggered immunity. Among these compounds, herbivore-induced plant volatiles (HIPVs), including green leaf volatiles (GLVs), which are mainly regulated by JA and ET pathways, can influence the behavior and performance of both chewing herbivores and piercing and sucking herbivores, such as striped stem borers (SSBs) and brown planthoppers (BPHs), directly and indirectly by the natural enemies of the herbivores. Trypsin proteinase inhibitors (TrypPIs) are also positively modulated by both JA and ET signaling pathways and negatively affect the performance of chewing herbivores, such as SSBs. Both callose deposition that may be mediated by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and SA pathways, and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> itself, have a negative effect on BPH performance. JA- and ET-mediated pathways negatively modulate resistance in rice to BPHs

### 5.3 Potential of Herbivore-Induced Defense in Rice Planthopper Management

Many studies have demonstrated that herbivore-induced plant direct and indirect defenses can influence the population dynamics of herbivores in the field (Karban and Baldwin 1997; Baldwin 1998; Halitschke et al. 2008; Degenhardt et al. 2009; Allmann and Baldwin 2010; Xiao et al. 2012). Moreover, these defenses can enhance plant fitness (Baldwin 1998; Steppuhn et al. 2004; Schuman et al. 2012). For example, Baldwin (1998) found that MeJA treatment increases resistance in tobacco (*Nicotiana attenuate*) to herbivores and enhances the plant's fitness in nature. Field studies revealed that HIPVs emitted from tobacco and maize can reduce herbivore populations from 24 % to more than 90 %, via enhancing the predation and parasitism of herbivores (Kessler and Baldwin 2001; Rasmann et al. 2005; Halitschke et al. 2008; Degenhardt et al. 2009; Allmann and Baldwin 2010) and deterring herbivores from egg deposition (Kessler and Baldwin 2001). Thus, appropriately using and/or regulating these defense traits might reduce densities of herbivores and hence decrease the amount of pesticides applied.

#### 5.3.1 Influence of Synthetic HIPVs in Attracting Natural Enemies

Based on the biosynthesis pathways or their known within-plant functions HIPVs mainly include three chemical groups (Holopainen and Gershenzon 2010). The first group, the terpenoids, is generally the dominant group of HIPVs in many plant species and is produced by two separate pathways, one active in plastids (MEP) and the other one (MVA) in cytosol (Loreto and Schnitzler 2010; Maffei 2010). The second group includes fatty acid derivatives, including the C6 lipoxigenase products, so-called GLVs. The third group is the volatile aromatic compounds, such as methyl salicylate and indole. In addition, there are a multitude of other volatile compounds, such as the volatile plant hormone ethylene and volatile amino acid derivatives (Dicke and Baldwin 2010; Holopainen and Blande 2013; Peñafior and Bento 2013).

HIPVs are known to have multiple functions: Some signal within a plant to activate systemic defenses, priming and activating defenses in neighboring plants; some influence the behavior or performance of herbivores and pollinators; and some attract natural enemies of herbivores (Dicke and Baldwin 2010; Holopainen and Blande 2013; Peñafior and Bento 2013). These functions may be helpful for controlling insect pests, as more than 20 single compounds or mixtures, including GLVs, terpenoids, and aromatics, have been found to attract the natural enemies of herbivores in the field (James 2003a, 2005a, b; Yu et al. 2008; Lee 2010; Orre et al. 2010); methyl salicylate and GLVs are strong candidate chemicals for this purpose (Table 5.1). Methyl salicylate (MeSA), for example, has been reported to



**Table 5.1** Summary of positive responses from beneficial insects to synthetic HIPVs in the field

Compound	Natural enemies	Crops	References
Cis-3-hexen-1-ol	<i>Stethorus punctum picipes</i> , <i>Orius tristicolor</i> , <i>Anagrus daanei</i>	Hop yard	James (2005a)
	<i>Orius similis</i> , <i>Paragus quadrifasciatus</i>	Cotton	Yu et al. (2008)
Trans-2-Hexen-1-al	<i>Geocoris pallens</i>	Hop yard	James (2005a)
Cis-3-Hexenal	<i>Anagrus nilarpavatae</i>	Rice	Wang and Lou (2013)
Cis-3-Hexenyl acetate	Braconidae	Hop yard	James (2005a)
	<i>Anaphes iole</i>	Cotton	Williams et al. (2008)
	<i>Deraeocoris brevis</i> , <i>Stethorus punctum picipes</i>	Hop yard	James (2003b)
	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i> , <i>Orius similis</i>	Cotton	Yu et al. (2008)
	<i>Metaphycus</i> spp., <i>Anagrus</i> spp.	Grapes	James (2003b)
	<i>Anagrus nilarpavatae</i>	Rice	Wang and Lou (2013)
Nonanal	Sarcophagidae	Hop yard	James (2005a)
	<i>Erigonidium graminicolum</i> , <i>Orius similis</i>	Cotton	Yu et al. (2008)
Octanal	<i>Deraeocoris punctulatus</i> , <i>Paragus quadrifasciatus</i>	Cotton	Yu et al. (2008)
Dimethyl octatriene	<i>Paragus quadrifasciatus</i>	Cotton	Yu et al. (2008)
Octylaldehyde	<i>Orius tristicolor</i> , <i>Anagrus daanei</i>	Hop yard	James (2005a)
Linalool	<i>Geocoris pallens</i>	Tobacco	Kessler and Baldwin (2001)
	<i>Anagrus nilarpavatae</i>	Rice	Wang and Lou (2013)
$\alpha$ -farnesene	<i>Anagrus daanei</i>	Hop yard	James (2005a)
	<i>Anaphes iole</i>	Cotton	Williams et al. (2008)
3,7-dimethyl-1,3,6-octatriene	<i>Orius similis</i>	Cotton	Yu et al. (2008)
Geraniol	Sarcophagidae	Hop yard	James (2003a)
Squalene	Male <i>Chrysoperla nigricornis</i>	Apple orchard	Jones et al. (2011)
Benzaldehyde	<i>Stethorus punctum picipes</i> , <i>Orius tristicolor</i> , Tachinidae	Hop yard	James (2005a)
	<i>Chrysoperla plorabunda</i>	Apple orchard	Jones et al. (2011)

(continued)



**Table 5.1** (continued)

Compound	Natural enemies	Crops	References
Indole	<i>Geocoris pallens</i> , Micro-Hymenoptera	Hop yard	James (2003a)
2-phenylethanol	<i>Chrysoperla carnea</i>	Soybean	Zhu and Park (2005)
Methyl anthranilate	<i>Thaumatomyia glabra</i> , Braconidae	Hop yard	James (2003a)
	<i>Thaumatomyia glabra</i>	Field with a mowed grass lawn and a pear orchard	Landolt (2000)
	<i>Ceranisus menes</i>	Field with vegetables and trees	Murai et al. (2000)
Methyl salicylate	<i>Stethorus punctum picipes</i> , <i>Orius tristicolor</i> , etc.	Hop yard	James (2003a)
	<i>Chrysopa nigricornis</i>	Hop yard	James (2003a)
	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	Soybean	Zhu and Park (2005)
	<i>Geocoris pallens</i> , Syrphidae, <i>Stethorus punctum picipes</i>	Hop yard	James (2003b)
	<i>Chrysopidae</i> , <i>Orius tristicolor</i>	Strawberry	Lee (2010)
	<i>Erigonidium graminicolum</i> , <i>Orius similis</i> ,	Cotton	Yu et al. (2008)
	<i>Chrysopa nigricornis</i> , <i>Deraeocoris brevis</i> , <i>Empididae</i> , etc.	Grapes	James and Price (2004)
	<i>Metaphycus</i> spp., <i>Anagrus</i> spp.	Grapes	James (2003b)
	<i>Diadegma semiclausum</i> , <i>Anacharis zealandica</i>	Turnip	Orre et al. (2010)
Methyl jasmonate	Braconidae	Hop yard	James (2005a)
	<i>Metaphycus</i> spp.	Grapes	James (2003b)
Cis-jasmone	Braconidae, Sarcophagidae	Hop yard	James (2003a)
Dimethyl disulfide	<i>Aleochara bilineata</i> , <i>Aleochara bipustulata</i>	Cabbage	Ferry et al. (2007)
MeSA, cis-3-Hexenal, cis-3-hexenyl acetate and linalool	<i>Anagrus nilarpavatae</i>	Rice	Wang and Lou (2013)

attract many species of the natural enemies of herbivores, such as *Stethorus punctum picipes*, *Orius tristicolor*, *Erigonidium graminicolum*, *Orius similis*, *Chrysopa nigricornis*, *Deraeocoris brevis*, and *Anagrus* spp. (Table 5.1). In addition, MeSA

was found to actually enhance the efficiency of the natural enemies and thus to dramatically reduce the population densities of the main pests, spider mites, and aphids (James and Price 2004). However, HIPVs may also attract herbivores and the fourth trophic level, the natural enemies of parasitoids and predators, or repel the natural enemies of the herbivores (Dicke and Baldwin 2010; Holopainen and Blande 2013; Peñafior and Bento 2013). For example, the parasitoid *Diadegma semiclausum* is repelled by MeSA (Snoeren et al. 2010; Braasch et al. 2012). Thus, the synthetic HIPVs that attract natural enemies but not herbivores and/or hyperparasitoids should be screened (Kaplan 2012).

In rice, previous studies have shown that herbivore infestation or jasmonic acid (JA) treatment alters the volatile profiles of rice plants (Lou et al. 2005a, b, 2006; Yan et al. 2010; Zhou et al. 2011). These volatiles mainly include fatty acid derivatives and terpenoids (Lou et al. 2006; Zhou et al. 2011; Xiao et al. 2012). *N. lugens*-induced or JA-elicited rice volatiles are strongly attractive to the egg parasitoid *A. nilaparvatae*, a major natural enemy of the rice planthopper (Lou et al. 2005a, b). Moreover, the parasitism of *N. lugens* eggs by *A. nilaparvatae* on plants that were surrounded by JA-treated plants is more than twofold higher than on control plants in the greenhouse and in the field (Lou et al. 2005a, 2006), implying that augmenting the release of rice-produced attractants has the potential to enhance the effectiveness of the parasitoid in the control of *N. lugens*. Recently, Wang and Lou (2013) found that five compounds—Z-3-hexenyl acetate, 1-penten-3-ol, Z-3-hexenal, linalool, and MeSA—attract the parasitoid. Moreover, *A. nilaparvatae* were strongly attracted by the mixtures of MeSA plus Z-3-hexenal, one containing Z-3-hexenal, Z-3-hexenyl acetate and linalool, and one containing MeSA, Z-3-hexenal, Z-3-hexenyl acetate, and linalool. Field experiments demonstrated that the parasitism of BPH eggs was significantly increased on plants that received a septa containing one of the three chemicals (Z-3-hexenal, Z-3-hexenyl acetate, and linalool) or the mixture containing MeSA, Z-3-hexenal, Z-3-hexenyl acetate, and linalool. The findings may contribute to improving or may help improve the biological control of *N. lugens* in the future.

### 5.3.2 *Effects of Exogenous Application of Chemical Elicitors*

Chemical elicitors are defined as chemicals that trigger resistance or enhance a plant's ability to mobilize induced defense responses (priming agents) to pests and are themselves not directly toxic to the pest (Kessmann et al. 1994; Pare et al. 2005; Beckers and Conrath 2007; Kim and Felton 2013). Thus far, many such natural and synthetic elicitors, especially elicitors that induce plant defense responses to pathogens, have been identified and/or synthesized. These elicitors include microbe-associated molecular patterns (MAMPs), such as bacterial flagellin, lipopolysaccharides (LPSs), and peptidoglycan (PGN) as well as fungi chitin and  $\beta$ -glucan, HAMPs, phytohormones and their analogs, such as JA and its analogs,

SA and its analogs, and other chemicals, such as terpenoids and BABA (Pare et al. 2005; Silipo et al. 2010; Hilker and Meiners 2011; Newman et al. 2013). These elicitors can activate defense-related signaling pathways (Schmelz et al. 2009; Silipo et al. 2010; Newman et al. 2013) or increase the sensitivity in triggering defense responses (Pare et al. 2005; Kim and Felton 2013), which subsequently makes plants able to resist pathogens or insect herbivores. Up to now, several of these chemical elicitors, such as benzo-(1,2,3) thiadiazole-7-carbothioic acid S-methyl ester (BTH), 2,6-dichloroisonicotinic acid (INA), and  $\beta$ -aminobutyric acid (BABA), have been commercialized for plant disease control (Vallad and Goodman 2004; Beckers and Conrath 2007; Knoth et al. 2009).

There are more than 20 chemical elicitors, mainly including HAMPs, phytohormones and their analogs, that induce or prime plant defense against insect herbivores (Table 5.2). For example, HAMPs and JA have been reported to activate defense-related signaling pathways and thus increase direct and indirect resistance in plants to herbivores (Table 5.2). Terpenoids, GLVs, and two inorganic chemicals, copper and silicon, can prime plants and enhance their ability to defend themselves against subsequent invaders (Table 5.2). In general, JA and elicitors that induce the JA signaling pathway mainly trigger resistance to necrotrophic pathogens and chewing herbivores, whereas SA and SA-inducing elicitors mainly elicit resistance in plants to biotrophic pathogens and piercing/sucking insects (Thaler et al. 2002; Arimura et al. 2005). However, Turlings and his research group recently found that BTH and laminarin, both of which elicit the SA signaling pathway, reduced the emission of herbivore-induced volatiles but increased direct and indirect resistance (attraction of the parasitoids) to the herbivores (Rostas and Turlings 2008; Sobhy et al. 2012), suggesting the complexity of induced plant defense responses.

Like elicitors that induce plant defense to pathogens, some of elicitors that elicit defenses to insect herbivores have also been proven to enhance the resistance of plants to herbivores in the field. For example, Baldwin (1998) found that MeJA treatment increases resistance in *N. attenuata* to herbivores and enhances its fitness in nature. The exogenous application of JA can elicit direct and indirect defense responses of plants to herbivores in the field (Thaler 1999; Thaler et al. 2002). Wheat plants in the field sprayed with low levels of *cis*-jasmone as an aqueous emulsion have been found to have lower aphid infestations (Moraes et al. 2008). Recently, Bingham et al. (2013) found that the application of micro-encapsulated *cis*-jasmone combined with piperonyl butoxide, a synergistic agent of pesticide, on tomato plants in the field resulted in a nearly 90 % reduction in the number of the tobacco whitefly, *Bemisia tabaci*. Moreover, plant seeds treated with elicitors have been found to enhance plant defense responses to herbivores. For example, tomato plants whose seeds were treated with JA showed enhanced responsiveness of defense-related genes and increased resistance to the tobacco hornworm *Manduca sexta*, green peach aphids *Myzus persicae*, and spider mites *Tetranychus urticae* (Worrall et al. 2012). Sobhy et al. (2014) reported that treating maize seeds with either BTH or laminarin increased the attractiveness of herbivore-infested plants to all three tested parasitoid species, *Microplitis rufiventris* v

**Table 5.2** Summary of elicitors that induce defense responses in plants to herbivorous arthropods

Elicitor	Source	Sensitive plants	Plant defense responses	References
<i>HAMPS</i>				
Fatty acid-amino acid conjugates (FACs)	Regurgitant of <i>Teleogryllus taiwanemma</i> , <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> , <i>Spodoptera exigua</i> , <i>Manduca sexta</i> , and other lepidoptera	Maize, tobacco, eggplant, <i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Membrane depolarization, Ca <sup>2+</sup> influx, JA burst, ethylene burst, change of transcription of numerous genes; release of volatiles attracting carnivores	Yoshinaga et al. 2007, Mithofer and Boland 2008, Schmelz et al. 2009, Yoshinaga et al. 2010, Bonaventure et al. 2011
Caeliferins	Grasshopper regurgitant	Maize, Arabidopsis	Release of volatiles attracting carnivores; JA and ethylene burst	Alborn et al. 2007, Schmelz et al. 2009
Inceptins	Lepidopteran larval regurgitant	Cowpea	Increases in levels of JA, SA and ET; the release of volatiles attracting carnivores	Schmelz et al. 2007, 2009, 2012
$\beta$ -glucosidase	Regurgitant of <i>Pieris brassicae</i> larvae	Lima bean, cabbage, maize	Release of volatiles attracting carnivores	Hopke et al. 1994, Mattiacci et al. 1995
Bruchins	Bruchid females	Pea and other legumes	Growth of neoplasms; change of transcription of several genes	Cooper et al. 2005, Doss et al. 2000, Doss 2005
Benzyl cyanide	<i>Pieris</i> eggs	Brussels sprouts, Arabidopsis	Change in leaf surface that attracts egg parasitoids; change of transcription of numerous genes	Fatouros et al. 2005, 2008, Little et al. 2007
Secreted proteins	Eggs of sawfly <i>D. pini</i> and the elm leaf beetle <i>X. luteola</i>	Pine	Volatiles release; reduction of photosynthetic activity; change of transcription of terpene synthases	Hilker et al. 2005, Schröder et al. 2005, 2007, Koepke et al. 2008, Hilker and Meiners 2011

(continued)

Table 5.2 (continued)

Elicitor	Source	Sensitive plants	Plant defense responses	References
<i>Phytohormones and their analogs</i>				
JA, MeJA, JA-Ile	Plants	Arabidopsis, tomato, tobacco, rice, maize, etc.	Accumulation of defense-related compounds; release of volatiles; change of transcription of numerous genes	Baldwin 1998, Bostock 2005, Howe and Jander 2008, Mithöfer and Boland 2012, Erb et al. 2012
Cis-jasmone	Plants	Arabidopsis, wheat, tomato, tobacco, cotton, sweet pepper, soybean, etc.	Accumulation of defense-related compounds; release of volatiles; change of transcription of numerous genes; priming plants	Pickett et al. 2001, Bruce et al. 2008, Moraes et al. 2008, Bingham et al. 2013, Oluwafemi et al. 2013
Coronatine	Bacterial phytoalexin	Tomato, tobacco, soybean, Arabidopsis, etc.	Accumulation of defense-related compounds; release of volatiles; change of transcription of some specific genes	Schüler et al. 2004, Svoboda and Boland 2010
Coronalon	Synthetic	Tomato, tobacco, soybean, barley, lima bean, Arabidopsis	Accumulation of defense-related compounds; release of volatiles; change of transcription of some specific genes	Schüler et al. 2004, Svoboda and Boland 2010
BTH	Synthetic	Maize	Accumulation of phytoalexins and pathogenesis-related (PR) proteins; decreases in elicited volatiles but enhance the attractiveness to carnivores	Rostas and Turlings 2008, Sobhy et al. 2012
2,4-D	Synthetic	Rice	Increases in the levels of JA, SA, ethylene and volatiles	Xin et al. 2012

(continued)

Table 5.2 (continued)

Elicitor	Source	Sensitive plants	Plant defense responses	References
<i>Other chemicals</i>				
Laminarin	algal $\beta$ -1,3-glucan	Maize	Accumulation of phytoalexins and pathogenesis-related (PR) proteins; decreases in elicited volatiles but enhance the attractiveness to carnivores	Rostas and Turlings 2008, Sobhy et al. 2012
GLVs	Plant volatiles	Maize, hybrid poplar Arabidopsis, tobacco	Priming plants and thus enhance defense responses	Engelberth et al. 2004, Kessler et al. 2006, Frost et al. 2008, Hirao et al. 2012
Terpenoids	Plant volatiles	lima bean, Maize, Arabidopsis, tobacco	Priming plants and thus enhance defense responses	Arimura et al. 2010, 2011, 2012, Godard et al. 2008
Copper (Cu)	Soil	Maize	Priming plants and thus enhance defense responses	Winter et al. 2012
Silicon	Fertilizer and soil	Rice	Priming plants and thus enhance defense responses	Ye et al. 2013

Note JA jasmonic acid; MeJA methyl jasmonate; JA-Ile JA-isoleucine conjugate; BTH benzo-(1,2,3) thiadiazole-7-carbothioic acid S-methyl ester; 2,4-D 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid; GLVs Green leaf volatiles

Kok., *Cotesia marginiventris* (Cresson), and *Campoletis sonorensis* (Cameron). These works suggest that the appropriate application of chemical elicitors could effectively reduce the population densities of herbivores.

In rice, it has been reported that *N. lugens*-induced or JA-elicited rice volatiles are strongly attractive to the parasitoid *A. nilaparvatae*, and the parasitism of *N. lugens* eggs by *A. nilaparvatae* on plants that were surrounded by JA-treated plants is more than twofold higher than on control plants in the greenhouse and field (Lou et al. 2005a, 2006). Recently, by developing a high-throughput chemical genetics screening system, Xin et al. (2012) found that 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) induced a strong defensive reaction and a significant increase in volatile production. Induced plants were more resistant to SSB but became highly attractive to BPH, as well as its parasitoid, *A. nilaparvatae*. In a subsequent field experiment, 2,4-D application were able to draw away BPH from non-treated plants and turn the treated plants into deadly traps by also attracting large numbers of parasitoids. Such a chemical elicitor, combined with push-pull management strategy (Cook et al. 2007), may improve our ability to manage BPH. When rice plants at the edge of a field, for example, are sprayed with 2,4-D, a trapping zone is created that reduces pest damage in the inner parts of the field. This may also lead to higher numbers of egg parasitoids in these zones, keeping pest reproduction to a minimum and creating a source of parasitoids that can attack the next generation of the pest in the untreated parts of the fields (Xin et al. 2012).

### 5.3.3 Genetic Modification of Rice Variety

As our understanding of the molecular mechanisms responsible for herbivore-induced plant defense responses increases, the genetic engineering of plants may offer a means to enhance resistance in plants to herbivores (Degenhardt et al. 2003; War et al. 2011; Peñaflor and Bento 2013). By overexpressing or knocking down one or more genes, including those responsible for defense-related signaling pathways, volatile emission, and defense compound synthesis, genetically modified plants have been made in many plant species, such as Arabidopsis, maize, rice, tomato, and tobacco, and some have been proven to enhance the direct and indirect resistance of plants to herbivorous insects in the field (Degenhardt et al. 2009; Schuman et al. 2012; Xiao et al. 2012). For example, when the ability of American corn varieties to emit (*E*)- $\beta$ -caryophyllene (an important signal used by entomopathogenic nematodes to find hosts) was restored (expressing a (*E*)- $\beta$ -caryophyllene synthase gene in plants), transgenic corn plants were damaged much less by western corn rootworm than were corn plants lacking the enzyme (Degenhardt et al. 2009). The larvae of *Manduca sexta* grew faster on and preferred plants of *N. attenuata* whose nicotine levels had been reduced by 95 % via genetic engineering (Steppuhn et al. 2004). When planted in their native habitat, plants whose nicotine production had been impaired were attacked more frequently and, compared to wild-type plants, lost threefold more leaf area from a



variety of native herbivores, suggesting that nicotine functions as an efficient defense in nature and that plants with high levels of nicotine will resist herbivore damage. Recently, a 2-year field study by Schuman et al. (2012) has shown that plants that emit GLVs produce twice as many buds and flowers—a measure of fitness—as plants that have been genetically engineered not to emit GLVs; GLVs only increased plants' fitness when various species of *Geocoris* (a bug that preys on *Manduca sexta*) reduced the number of herbivores.

Xiao et al. (2012) found that rice lines impaired in emissions of *S*-linalool, a compound that is strongly induced by BPH infestation, were less attractive to the egg parasitoid of rice planthoppers, *A. nilaparvatae*, as well as to predatory spiders but more attractive to BPH than were wild-type plants. On the other hand, lines with low levels of (*E*)- $\beta$ -caryophyllene, a constitutively emitted volatile that is not inducible by BPH, attracted both BPH and its natural enemies less often than did WT plants. Both of the lines resulted in an increase in the BPH population in the field (Xiao et al. 2012). Thus, such transgenic lines may be used in combination with control BPH: Rice plants that produce (*E*)- $\beta$ -caryophyllene but not *S*-linalool could be sown at the edges of the field to attract both BPH and its natural enemies, and other plants could be engineered to produce high amounts of *S*-linalool but not (*E*)- $\beta$ -caryophyllene in order to attract egg parasitoids and avoid BPH colonization (Xiao et al. 2012).

Although there are some successful cases of reducing population densities of herbivores by using transgenic plants, developing a transgenic variety that constitutively expresses some defense-related genes should be avoided. The continuous production of defense chemicals may decrease plant fitness as the production of defense compounds is expensive (Steppuhn et al. 2004; Zavala et al. 2004), and herbivores adapt quickly to plants because selection pressure is high. Moreover, if the defense chemicals that constitutively produced are volatiles, such a variety will lose its attractiveness to natural enemies because the attracted natural enemies have no rewards (neither hosts nor prey) (Turlings and Ton 2006; Khan et al. 2008), and may attract pathogens and herbivores (Carroll et al. 2006; Halitschke et al. 2008). Therefore, a better approach to enhancing resistance in plants would be to develop lines whose defenses could be stronger and more rapidly induced by herbivores (Degenhardt et al. 2003; Turlings and Ton 2006).

## 5.4 Conclusions and Perspectives

In this review, we summarize recent advances in the understanding of herbivore-induced plant defense response and their application in pest management. With the accumulation of knowledge about genomics, proteomics, and metabolomes, much progress has been made over the past 10 years in understanding the molecular basis of herbivore-induced defense responses in rice. Moreover, based on this knowledge, some methods for insect pest control, mainly including HIPV-based attractants for the natural enemies of herbivores, the application of chemical

elicitors and the genetic manipulation of crop variety, are being exploited. These methods have been shown to increase not only the foraging efficiency of the natural enemies of herbivores but also the resistance in plants to herbivores, and their use often decreases the population densities of and the damage by herbivores; in the end, fewer pesticides are applied. More importantly, in crops, especially in annual cropping systems, natural enemies are always one step behind the pest, which generally reduces the foraging efficiency of the natural enemies. Using methods such as HIPV-based attractants or elicitors, natural enemies may be attracted to crops earlier. In rice, such methods also show great potential, especially in the management of planthoppers (Lou et al. 2005a, b, 2006; Xiao et al. 2012; Xin et al. 2012; Wang and Lou 2013). Because these methods are environmentally friendly and can redistribute herbivores and their natural enemies in space and time, they are promising for pest management.

Like all measures for pest management, such as pesticides, however, the herbivore-induced plant defense-based methods also have weaknesses. First, HIPVs have been proven to mediate multiple functions in ecosystems. In addition to repelling herbivores (De Moraes et al. 2001; Bruinsma et al. 2007; Szendrei and Rodriguez-Saona 2010) and attracting their natural enemies, HIPVs can also provide signals with which parasitic plants (Runyon et al. 2006) or herbivores (Bolter et al. 1997; Kalberer et al. 2001; Carroll et al. 2006; Halitschke et al. 2008) can locate their hosts. Therefore, the inappropriate application of synthetic HIPVs may enhance the probability of infestation by other herbivores. Second, some parasitoid species use HIPVs to locate their hosts, relying on associative learning (Meiners et al. 2003). The diffuse application of synthetic HIPVs might attract the natural enemies but no “rewards” (hosts or prey), which will thus decrease the foraging efficiency of the parasitoids (Turlings and Ton 2006; Khan et al. 2008). Third, a chemical that is an elicitor for some pests may become a suppressor for others. For example, treatment with 2,4-D induces resistance in rice to SSB but induces susceptibility to the brown planthopper, *Nilaparvata lugens* (Xin et al. 2012). The application of JA makes plants resistant to herbivores, but at the same time, the SA-mediated pathway might be inhibited and plants could become more susceptible to pathogens (Stout et al. 1998; Thaler et al. 1999). Moreover, some elicitors, especially those analogous to plant hormones, may influence the growth and reproduction of plants. In addition, plants that constitutively enhance levels of defense-related compounds may decrease the efficiency in controlling herbivores as stated above. Therefore, it is important to investigate the main species of herbivores and their natural enemies in different locations of each crop system, as well as the interactions mediated by the induced defenses in the context of agroecosystem. Moreover, appropriate defense-related compounds that repress herbivore populations directly or indirectly and adapt to specific herbivores and areas of each crop system, various elicitors that induce different resistance mechanisms of plants to herbivores and have no harmful effect on plants, and crop varieties in which defense responses could be rapidly and strongly elicited by herbivore infestation should be exploited. Based on these results, effective methods of herbivore management that adapt to various areas and crop systems may be developed. Furthermore, various elicitors that induce different resistance

mechanisms in plants could be used in combination so that herbivores cannot adapt to resistance traits induced by elicitors.

These herbivore management methods could also be combined with other management strategies, such as push-pull (Cook et al. 2007) and an ecological engineering program (Gurr et al. 2011), which may greatly reduce the damage by herbivores. For example, if rice plants that produce (*E*)- $\beta$ -caryophyllene but not *S*-linalool are sown at the edges of the field, both BPH and its natural enemies could be strongly attracted. If the rest of the plants are engineered to produce high amounts of *S*-linalool but not (*E*)- $\beta$ -caryophyllene, they will likely remain pest free (Xiao et al. 2012). Combined with an ecological engineering program, such methods, for example, HIPV-based attractants for natural enemies and the application of chemical elicitors, will further enhance the effect of natural enemies by helping them to locate their hosts/prey, an effect that neither of the two measures can achieve alone (Gurr et al. 2011).

In rice, defense compounds, especially non-volatile defense compounds against insect herbivores, including rice planthoppers, are largely unknown. Thus, to effectively exploit herbivore-induced defense responses, we should first identify the main defense chemicals in rice. Once the genes that regulate these chemicals as molecular markers are found, appropriate chemical elicitors and rice varieties could be exploited. Recently, an ecological engineering program that focuses on vegetation diversity and aims to enhance the population density and efficiency of natural enemies of insect pests has been established, and the results have shown that this program can effectively augment the effect of natural enemies, decreasing the frequency of outbreaks of insect pests, including planthoppers, and the need for pesticides in rice (Gurr et al. 2011). Therefore, the use of management methods developed from herbivore-induced rice defense responses and an ecological engineering program will further enhance population densities and the effectiveness of employing the natural enemies of insect pests (Gurr et al. 2011). By decreasing the population levels of rice insect pests, we can reduce the amount of insecticides and environmental pollution.

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