ORIGINAL PAPER

# Volatiles from spruce trap-trees detected by Ips typographus bark beetles: chemical and electrophysiological analyses

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Received: 11 October 2013 / Accepted: 24 May 2014 / Published online: 7 June 2014 - Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht 2014

Abstract In the search for compounds that contribute to the host or habitat discrimination, antennae of Ips typographus were screened for sensitivity to volatiles released by spruce trap-trees using gas chromatography linked to electroantennography. The antennally active compounds were determined using comprehensive two-dimensional gas chromatography with time-of-flight mass spectrometric detection. Data show that *I. typographus* antennae respond to compounds emitted by the host. In total, 18 of antennally active compounds were detected: a-pinene, camphene, sabinene,  $\beta$ -pinene, myrcene,  $\Delta$ -3-carene, p-cymene, limonene,  $\beta$ -phellandrene, 1,8-cineole,  $\gamma$ -terpinene, terpinolene, nonanal, camphor, trans-pinocamphone, cis-pinocamphone, terpinen-4-ol, and verbenone. Unequivocal identification of all active minor compounds is provided and confirmed using synthetic standards. Compounds in minor quantities like 1,8-cineole, b-phellandrene, camphor, cis-pinocamphone,

Handling Editor: Jarmo Holopainen.

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and trans-pinocamphone were more active than major spruce monoterpenes. We hypothesize that the minor spruce compounds may play so far unrecognized role in conveying information about host suitability for I. typographus.

Keywords Ips typographus · Picea abies · Host selection · Semiochemicals · GC-EAD · GC×GC/TOFMS

## Introduction

European spruce bark beetle, Ips typographus (Linnaeus, 1758), is the most destructive Ips species in Eurasia as well as probably the most serious pest of Norway spruce, Picea abies (L.) H. Karst (Grégoire and Evans [2004](#page-9-0)). At endemic population densities, this species colonizes dead or severely weakened spruce trees while at epidemic conditions, it successfully attacks the healthy trees. Among current methods of I. typographus control, mass trapping by means of felled (or artificially stressed) trap-trees left for bark beetle colonization and debarked before the brood finishes their development (Courtois et al. [1961;](#page-9-0) Bakke [1989\)](#page-9-0) represents a traditional approach widely used in Czechia (Svestka et al. [1996](#page-11-0)) and in Europe (Grégoire and Evans [2004](#page-9-0)). After identification of the I. typographus aggregation pheromone (Bakke [1970](#page-9-0), [1976\)](#page-9-0), the trap-tree technique was gradually replaced by traps baited with synthetic pheromone (pheromone traps) (Bakke [1985](#page-9-0)). Since the introduction of pheromone traps into the forest practice for control of I. typographus, many studies reported that hostspecific odors may enhance the pheromone attractiveness (Raty et al. [1995;](#page-10-0) Bombosch [1983;](#page-9-0) Bombosch and Johann [1985](#page-9-0); Austara et al. [1986](#page-9-0); Erbilgin et al. [2007;](#page-9-0) Saint-Germain et al. [2007](#page-10-0)). As a consequence, pheromone-baited spruce trap-trees poisoned with insecticide were introduced

as a more efficient alternative to pheromone traps (Klimetzek [1978](#page-10-0); Raty et al. [1995\)](#page-10-0).

Although the importance of volatiles in host selection by beetles in flight was generally known earlier (Person [1931\)](#page-10-0) and has been reviewed for Ips and other bark beetles (Byers [1989,](#page-9-0) [1995,](#page-9-0) [2004\)](#page-9-0), it is still not known whether host volatiles mediate the attraction of I. typographus. It is also uncertain whether tree volatiles are responsible for the enhanced attraction of pheromone-baited trap-trees compared to pheromone traps alone. In order to identify host compounds that may play a role in host selection and enhance attraction to aggregation pheromone, we studied volatiles released from trap-trees using comprehensive two-dimensional gas chromatography with time-of-flight mass spectrometric detection  $(GC \times GC/TOFMS)$ . To identify the compounds with ecological potential, we studied physiological responses of I. typographus antennae to host volatiles using gas chromatography with electroantennographic detection (GC-EAD).

### Materials and methods

#### Trap-trees

Three spruce trees were cut during February 2012 in production spruce forest (Dobřichovice, Central Bohemia region of the Czech Republic) of about 80 years old. The cut trees were allowed to age for a period of 3–6 months under the natural conditions. From each tree, one section of approximately same diameter and 1 m of length was taken into laboratory and their volatiles were collected.

#### Insects

Infested logs were collected from natural spruce stands and transferred to the laboratory where they were stored in a cool room  $(1-5 \text{ °C})$ . Before experiments, the logs were transferred to a breeding room (25  $\pm$  1 °C, R.H. 40 %, and 12:12 L:D). Under these conditions, beetles finished their development and emerged. After emergence, the beetles were provided with water and bark strips and were stored in plastic containers under  $1-5$  °C until used in electrophysiological experiments. Only males were used.

#### Solvents

For all operations with samples and cartridges were used following, prior the analyses under argon atmosphere redistilled solvents: hexane (for residual analysis,  $\geq$ 99.0 %), acetone (CHROMASOLV<sup>®</sup> Plus, for HPLC,  $\geq$ 99.9 %), both supplied by Sigma-Aldrich s.r.o. (Prague, Czech Republic).

#### Synthetic standards

Majority of synthetic standards was obtained from chemical inventory of the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry (b-phellandrene, terpinolene, estragole) or purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and Bedoukian Research, Inc. (Danbury, CT, USA). Synthetic  $(1\alpha,2\beta,5\alpha)$ -2,6,6trimethylbicyclo[3.1.1] heptan-3-one (cis-pinocamphone) and  $(1\alpha,2\alpha,5\alpha)$ -2,6,6-trimethylbicyclo[3.1.1]heptan-3-one (trans-pinocamphone) were obtained via Alchimica s.r.o. (Prague, Czech Republic). Standards were diluted in hexane in concentrations of 10–100 ng  $\mu$ l<sup>-1</sup> and analyzed in  $GC \times GC/TOFMS$  or  $GC$ -EAD under the same conditions as trap-tree extracts. The EAD activity was considered to be confirmed if it was observed at least three times in the same area as in the GC-EAD analyses of trap-tree extracts.

### Headspace sampling procedure

Stem sections transferred to the laboratory were enclosed in Paclan PET heat-resistant baking foil sleeve (CeDo, Kąty Wrocławskie, Poland). A purified airstream (charcoal and 4 Å molecular sieves cartridges;  $1 \text{ l min}^{-1}$ ) was blown via PTFE tubing over foil-enclosed log section. Volatiles entrained by the airstream were trapped by 150 mg of Super $Q^{\circledast}$  adsorbent (Chrompack Inc., Florham Park, NJ, USA) placed in the tip of glass Pasteur-like-tube cartridge sealed by glass wool for 5 h. The identical adsorbent cartridge was used prior the airstream entrance into the sample for the final air pre-cleaning. One sample of each stem was obtained. After collection, the trapped volatiles were extracted with 500 µl of hexane. The extracts were concentrated to approximately 100 µl under a gentle stream of nitrogen and stored in a freezer until analysis. Between collection repetitions, the trap cartridges were washed with acetone and hexane, dried at room temperature, and conditioned for 1 h at 120  $^{\circ}$ C.

Comprehensive two-dimensional gas chromatography with time-of-flight mass spectrometric detection  $(GC \times GC/TOFMS)$  analyses

The GC×GC/TOFMS analyses were carried out on a LECO Pegasus 4D instrument (LECO Corp., St. Joseph, MI, USA) equipped with a quad-jet cryomodulator. A DB-5 column (J&W Scientific, Folsom, CA, USA;  $30 \text{ m} \times 250 \text{ µm}$  i.d.  $\times 0.25 \text{ µm}$  film) and a BPX-50 column (SGE Inc., Austin, TX, USA;  $2 m \times 100 \mu m$ i.d.  $\times$  0.1 µm of film) were used for the first and the second dimension analysis, respectively. Helium was used as a carrier gas at a constant flow of  $1 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ . Sample injection was done with the HP 7683 autosampler, and  $1 \mu$ l of sample was injected in the split less mode. The

temperatures of the  $GC \times GC/TOFMS$  instrument were set at 220  $\mathrm{^{\circ}C}$  at the injector, 260  $\mathrm{^{\circ}C}$  at the transfer line, and 250  $\degree$ C at the ion source. The temperature program on the primary GC oven was as follows:  $40^{\circ}$ C for 2 min, the temperature was raised at 5  $^{\circ}$ C min<sup>-1</sup> up to 190  $^{\circ}$ C and at 20 °C min<sup>-1</sup> up to 320 °C with a hold for 2 min. The program in the secondary oven was  $10^{\circ}$ C higher than in the primary one and was operated in the same ramping mode. The modulation period, the hot-pulse duration, and the cool time between the stages were set at 5, 0.8, and 1.7 s, respectively. The mass spectrometer was operated in the electron impact mode (EI, 70 eV). The detector voltage was 1,750 V. The data-acquisition rate was 100 Hz (scans per second) for the mass range of 29–400 amu. The purge time was 60 s at a flow of 60 ml  $\text{min}^{-1}$ . The solvent delay time was 500 s. The data were processed and consecutively visualized on 2D and 3D chromatograms using LECO ChromaTOF<sup>®</sup> software. A series of *n*-alkanes ( $C_8-C_{22}$ ; Sigma-Aldrich) was co-injected with authentic samples to determine their retention indices  $(I_R; LRI-calculation)$ method provided by LECO ChromaTO $F^{\otimes}$  software). The volatiles were identified by a comparison of their mass spectra fragmentation patterns, the first and the second dimension retention times, and retention indices with previously published data [reference spectra NIST 2008 library, the Wiley/NBS Registry of mass spectral data (McLafferty and Stauffer [1989](#page-10-0))] and published retention indices with synthetic standards. In the absence of standards, identifications were based on mass spectra and retention indices comparisons with previously published data (Adams [2007,](#page-9-0) [www.pherobase.com,](http://www.pherobase.com) [www.flavornet.](http://www.flavornet.org) [org](http://www.flavornet.org) and specific references listed in the reference section).

Gas chromatography with electroantennographic detection (GC-EAD) experiments

Headspace samples were injected split less into a 5890A Hewlet-Packard gas chromatograph equipped with an Rxi-5Sil MS (Restek, Bellefonte, PA, USA;  $30 \text{ m} \times 0.25 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ i.d.  $\times$  0.25 µm film) column. The column was split at the end by a Graphpack 3D/2 four-arm splitter (Gerstel GmbH  $& Co.KG, Mülheim an der Ruhr, Germany, allowing the$ division of the eluate to the flame ionization detection (FID) and antennal detector (EAD). Helium was used as a carrier gas at a constant flow of 1 ml  $min^{-1}$ . The GC was operated at an initial temperature of 40  $^{\circ}$ C for 2 min then ramped up at a rate of 10  $^{\circ}$ C min<sup>-1</sup> to 270  $^{\circ}$ C with a 10-min hold. The temperature of the GC inlet and detector was set to 250 and 270  $\degree$ C, respectively. To allow a comparison of major antennal activities (EAD response) with individual compounds provided by  $GC \times GC/TOFMS$  analysis, a series of saturated  $C_8-C_{22}$  *n*-alkanes was coinjected with some of the analyzed samples. The linear retention indices  $(I_{\text{R-EAD}})$  of EAD active peaks were calculated (Van Den Dool and Kratz [1963\)](#page-11-0), and the corresponding areas of  $GC \times GC/T$ OFMS chromatograms were inspected in detail. All of the compounds present within these corresponding areas were identified, and their  $I_R$  were calculated. The antennal activity of synthetic compounds was subsequently tested in GC-EAD experiments. The EAD activity was considered to be established if it was observed at least three times in exactly the same GC-EAD area. In total, about 200 GC-EAD recordings with different trap-tree extracts were attempted to yield 30 distinctive GC-EAD recordings.

## **Results**

The  $GC \times GC/TOFMS$  and  $GC$ -EAD analyses of spruce trap-tree volatiles revealed the presence of many terpenoid compounds with antennal activity (Table [1;](#page-3-0) Fig. [1](#page-4-0)). The most abundant compounds were monoterpene hydrocarbons making up 93 and 92.7 % in trap A and trap B, respectively. The rest was made up by oxidized monoter-penes and nonanal. Figure [1](#page-4-0)a shows a typical  $GC \times GC/$ TOFMS 2D chromatogram. Each spot on the contour plot represents one compound, the concentration of which is color coded from zero (blue) to maximum (red). Numbers in the figure correspond to the serial numbers of the substances listed in Table [1](#page-3-0), where each compound is characterized by observed retention times in the first and the second dimension, by measured and published linear retention indexes  $(I_R)$ , and previously reported or recorded antennal activity.

As could be seen from Fig. [1a](#page-4-0) and from Table [1](#page-3-0), the most abundant compounds in spruce trap-tree volatiles were monoterpene hydrocarbons  $\Delta$ -3-carene,  $\alpha$ -pinene,  $\beta$ pinene and (in total 58 and 57 % in trap A and B, respectively) followed by myrcene, limonene, camphene, sabinene,  $\beta$ -phellandrene, fenchone, terpinolene, *p*-cymene (forming up to 33.2 and 29.9 %, respectively), and oxygenated terpenoid compounds present in traces  $(\leq 1 \%)$ forming 1.5 and 5.4 % in trap A and trap B, respectively, of the total amount of spruce tree-trap volatiles. A typical example of GC-EAD analysis of spruce trap-tree volatiles using I. typographus antenna as a biological detector is depicted on Fig. [1b](#page-4-0). This figure shows that I. typographus antennae respond to many compounds from spruce traptree emissions and that many important stimuli are among the less abundant compounds. Sesquiterpenes, which accounted for  $\langle 10 \%$  of all collected volatiles, did not elicit antennal responses at concentrations present in analyzed samples. Among identified sesquiterpenes were acubebene,  $\alpha$ -longipinene,  $\alpha$ -gurjunene,  $\alpha$ -copaene,  $\beta$ -longipinene, longifolene,  $(E)$ - $\beta$ -caryophyllene, germacrene D,

#	Compound	$I_{\rm R- EAD}$	First dim $r.t.$ (s)	Second dim $r.t.$ (s)	$I_{\rm R\text{-}LECO}$	$I_{\text{R-ADAMS}}^{\text{a}}$	$I_{\rm R-LIT}$	Peak area $(\%)^8$
1	$\alpha$ -Thujene		785	1.990	930	930		$0.19 \pm 0.04$
2	$\alpha$ -Pinene	945	805	2.060	940	939		$16.28 \pm 1.45$
3	Camphene	960	835	2.140	956	953		$3.09 \pm 1.01$
4	Sabinene	988	875	2.150	977	976		$2.61 \pm 0.88$
5	<b>B-Pinene</b>	994	885	2.200	982	980		$12.37 \pm 4.21$
6	Myrcene	998	900	2.210	990	991		$6.51 \pm 2.20$
7	$\Delta$ -3-Carene	1,010	950	2.220	1,014	1,011		$22.79 \pm 5.40$
8	$p$ -Cymene	1,036	975	2.430	1,030	1,026		$5.21 \pm 0.31$
9	Limonene	1,044	985	2.250	1,035	1,029	$1,032^b$	$6.51 \pm 1.01$
10	β-Phellandrene	1,044	985	2.220	1,035	1,029		$3.90 \pm 0.42$
11	1,8-Cineole	1,048	990	2.380	1,038	1,031		$3.58 \pm 0.33$
12	$\gamma$ -Terpinene	1,066	1,035	2.340	1,061	1,059		$1.46 \pm 0.12$
13	Terpinolene	1,093	1,090	2.430	1,090	1,088	$1,096^{\rm b}$	$2.80 \pm 0.35$
14	Fenchone	-	1,095	2.650	1,094	1,086	$1,094^{\circ}$	$2.67 \pm 0.54$
15	Nonanal	1,106	1,120	2.590	1,102	1,100		$1.89 \pm 0.21$
16	trans-2-Caren-4-ol	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	1,175	2.640	1,139		$1,138$ <sup>f</sup>	$1.46 \pm 0.15$
17	Camphor	1,155	1,205	2.900	1,156	1,146		$4.88 \pm 1.11$
18	trans-Pinocamphone	1,166	1,230	2.850	1,170	1,162		$0.33 \pm 0.05$
19	cis-Pinocamphone	1,193	1,257	2.910	1,185	1,175	$1,180^d$	$0.97 \pm 0.36$
20	Terpinen-4-ol	1,195	1,265	2.570	1,190	1,177	$1,193^b$	$0.07 \pm 0.02$
21	Estragole		1,290	2.870	1,204	1,195	$1,199^e$	$0.03 \pm 0.01$
22	Verbenone	1,219	1,310	3,020	1,215	1,205	$1,218^b$	$0.36 \pm 0.12$

<span id="page-3-0"></span>Table 1 List of compounds identified in Picea abies trap-tree volatiles with their EAD activities,  $GcxGC/TOFMS$  retention indices,  $I<sub>R</sub>$ , and with percentage representations

 $I_{\text{R-EAD}}$ —retention indices of EAD activities, first dim r.t. and second dim r.t.—retention times on the first and second columns in  $\text{GCxGC}/\text{G}$ TOFMS analysis in sec,  $I_R$ —experimental and previously determined retention indices  $(I_R)_{L ECO}$ —obtained in our GC×GC/TOFMS experiments,  $I_{\rm R\text{-}ADAMS}$  and  $I_{\rm R\text{-}LIT}$ —literature data), A, B—age category of trap-trees (A and B—3 and 6 months, respectively)

 $^{\text{a}}$  Adams ([2007\)](#page-9-0)

 $b$  I<sub>R</sub> on DB-5 column: Högnadóttir and Rouseff [\(2003](#page-9-0))

 $\degree$  Bilia et al. [\(2002](#page-9-0))

 $d$  Angioni ([2006\)](#page-9-0)

<sup>e</sup> Juliani and Simon [\(2002](#page-10-0))

 $f$  Marzoug et al. ([2011\)](#page-10-0)

 $\frac{g}{g}$  (%)<sub>x</sub> = 100 × A<sub>x</sub>/ $\sum A_{1-22}$  where A is individual peak area; average from three analyses; TOFMS TIC data

 $\delta$ -cadinene, and  $\alpha$ -cadinene. The identification of compounds was done based on correlation of  $GC \times GC/TOFMS$ spectra and linear retention indices  $(I_R)$  with authentic standards whenever possible. The determination of antennally active compounds was based on the precise correlation of  $(I_R)$  obtained in both GC×GC/TOFMS and GC-EAD analyses. Tentative identification based on mass spectra and  $(I_R)$  was in all cases confirmed by subsequent GC-EAD experiments using synthetic standards to determine whether the activities matched those found in GC-EAD analysis of trap-tree extracts. The process of compound identification is demonstrated in Fig. [2](#page-5-0), where  $complementary$  sections of both  $GC \times GC/TOFMS$ (Fig. [2](#page-5-0)a) and GC-EAD (Fig. [2b](#page-5-0)) analyses are displayed. The sections are focused on the area where camphor, *trans*- pinocamphone, cis-pinocamphone, terpinen-4-ol, and verbenone eluted. The compounds are numbered as listed in Table 1 (17: camphor, 18: trans-pinocamphone, 19: cispinocamphone, 20: terpinen-4-ol, 22: verbenone). Figure  $2a$  $2a$  shows the GC $\times$ GC/TOFMS chromatogram, while Fig. [2](#page-5-0)a depicts the GC-EAD analysis. Figure [2](#page-5-0)b shows that camphor, trans-pinocamphone, cis-pinocamphone, terpinen-4-ol, and verbenone elicit significant antennal responses. Subsequent GC-EAD analysis (Fig. [2](#page-5-0)c) of synthetic trans-pinocamphone and cis-pinocamphone confirms the antennal activities and supports the identification. Figure [2](#page-5-0) also shows the advantage of  $GC \times GC/TOFMS$  in the identification process of insect semiochemicals. While retention times of terpinen-4-ol and cis-pinocamphone are almost identical in one-dimensional GC-FID analysis and

<span id="page-4-0"></span>Fig. 1 GC×GC/TOFMS (a) and GC-EAD (b) chromatograms of spruce trap-tree volatiles: each dot on the plot a represents one compound, concentration of which is color coded from zero  $(blue)$  to maximum (red). Numbers on the picture represent identified volatile constituents as they are listed in Table [1](#page-3-0). GC-EAD analysis b shows the compounds eliciting EAD responses



these two compounds often co-elute, forming one broad  $FID/EAD$  peak, in two-dimensional  $GC \times GC/TOFMS$ analysis, terpinen-4-ol and cis-pinocamphone form clearly isolated spots in the chromatogram due to differences in retention times in the second dimension. Figure [3](#page-6-0) compares MS spectra of natural and synthetic *trans-pinocam*phone and cis-pinocamphone. As can be seen from Fig. [2](#page-5-0) and, the spectra and retentions times in both dimensions are essentially identical supporting unequivocal identification.

Based on  $GC \times GC/TOFMS$  and  $GC$ -EAD experiments, we observed that *I. typographus* antennae consistently respond to 18 compounds present in spruce trap-tree volatiles—specifically to  $\alpha$ -pinene, camphene, sabinene,  $\beta$ pinene, myrcene,  $\Delta$ -3-carene, p-cymene, limonene,  $\beta$ phellandrene, 1,8-cineole (eucalyptol),  $\gamma$ -terpinene, terpinolene, nonanal, camphor, trans-pinocamphone, cis-pinocamphone, terpinen-4-ol, and verbenone. To assess the effectiveness of trans-pinocamphone and cis-pinocamphone in comparison with the major monoterpenes  $\alpha$ -pinene and b-pinene, EAD/FID ratio (EAD peak area/FID peak area) was calculated (the higher EAD/FID ratio, the lower efficiency; Table [2\)](#page-6-0). The table shows mean values of EAD/ FID ratios for *trans*-pinocamphone, *cis*-pinocamphone,  $\alpha$ pinene, and  $\beta$ -pinene calculated from three independent GC-EAD experiments. The EAD/FID ratio clearly shows that the effectiveness of  $\alpha$ -pinene and  $\beta$ -pinene was  $10-100\times$  lower then *cis*- and *trans*-pinocamphone.

All antennal activities were confirmed with synthetic standards in subsequent GC-EAD experiments using same conditions as in the case of authentic spruce trap-tree samples (Fig. [4\)](#page-7-0). During these experiments, we observed that individual antennal preparations responded with significant variability. In some preparations, certain compounds elicited small or no responses, while in others, quite significant responses were observed to the same compound(s). Some compounds elicited responses more often than the others, perhaps reflecting the sensillar abundance of the antenna. Compounds camphene, myrcene,  $\Delta$ -3-carene, p-cymene, b-phellandrene, nonanal and especially 1,8-cineole, camphor, trans- and cis-pinocamphone, verbenone, and terpinen-4-ol elicited antennal responses almost in all antennal preparations, while responses to  $\alpha$ pinene, sabinene,  $\beta$ -pinene, p-cymene, limonene, and  $\gamma$ terpinene were less frequent and less pronounced. Such <span id="page-5-0"></span>Fig. 2 Detail of the corresponding parts of  $GC \times GC/$ TOFMS (a) and GC-EAD (b) analysis of spruce trap-tree volatiles, (c) GC-EAD of synthetic trans- and cisisopinocamphone (compound numbering as listed in Table [1\)](#page-3-0)



variability in antennal sensitivity probably reflects different abundances in distributions of sensillae on I. typographus antennae. Less frequent sensillae are more difficult to encounter by the recording electrode. On Fig. [4,](#page-7-0) examples of GC-EAD responses to standards (concentrations 5–10 ng  $\mu$ l<sup>-1</sup>) are depicted. Trace 4a represents GC-EAD experiments with  $\alpha$ -pinene, myrcene,  $\Delta$ -3-carene, p-cymene, and limonene; trace 4b depicts GC-EAD responses to camphene,  $\beta$ -pinene,  $\beta$ -phellandrene, terpinolene, terpinen-4-ol, and verbenone; and trace 4c shows responses to camphene, sabinene,  $\Delta$ -3-carene, 1,8-cineole,  $\gamma$ -terpinen, and camphor.

## Discussion

Bark beetles that attack living trees including I. typographus invariably possess an aggregation pheromone, but are supposed to be weakly, if at all, attracted by host volatiles alone (primary attraction) (Pureswaran and Borden [2003](#page-10-0)). On the other hand, secondary bark beetle species often do not produce aggregation pheromones, but are strongly attracted to host monoterpenes, ethanol, acetaldehyde, or a combination (Byers et al. [1985;](#page-9-0) Kohnle [1985;](#page-10-0) Klimetzek et al. [1986](#page-10-0); Moeck et al. [1981;](#page-10-0) Schroeder and Lindelöw [1989](#page-10-0); Lindelöw and Risberg [1992;](#page-10-0) Sjödin et al. 1989). As

<span id="page-6-0"></span>



Table 2 Values of FID and EAD areas from three independent GC-EAD experiments and calculated EAD/FID ratios for two minor compounds,  $cis$ -pinocamphone, *trans*-pinocamphone, and for two major compounds,  $\alpha$ -pinene and  $\beta$ -pinene



Higher EAD/FID values indicate greater efficiency (lower amount of compounds elicits higher antennal response)

demonstrated in the introductory part of this paper, data available for possible primary attraction in I. typographus are ambiguous. In this species, males locate a host tree and determine its suitability for colonization and reproduction. At endemic level, males prefer weakened less resistant trees, or trees that are in the initial stages of death and

<span id="page-7-0"></span>

Fig. 4 Examples of GC-EAD experiments with pure standards used to confirm antennal activities (concentrations  $5-10$  ng  $\mu$ l<sup>-1</sup>). Trace a depicts GC-EAD responses of  $\alpha$ -pinene, myrcene,  $\Delta$ -3-carene, cymene, and limonene; trace b depicts GC-EAD responses to camphene, b-pinene, b-phellandrene, terpinolene, terpinen-4-ol, and verbenone; trace c depicts responses to camphene, sabinene,  $\Delta$ -3carene,  $1,8$ -cineole,  $\gamma$ -terpinene, and camphor

decay (Grégoire and Evans [2004](#page-9-0)). Such trees are scattered in the forest, and it might be helpful to use long-range olfactory signals for navigation. However, while some authors reported attractiveness of host odor or major host monoterpenes and their synergism with aggregation pheromone, others did not observe any of these effects (reviewed by Byers [1989](#page-9-0), [2004\)](#page-9-0) and speculated about random host selection (Moeck et al. [1981;](#page-10-0) Wood [1982](#page-11-0); Byers [1996;](#page-9-0) Gries et al. [1989](#page-9-0); Saint-Germain et al. [2007\)](#page-10-0) based on observation that during dispersal flight beetles fly more than 40 km (Forsse and Solbreck [1985](#page-9-0)) and encounter several hosts and thus may check host suitability by close-range inspection (Moeck et al. [1981](#page-10-0); Wood [1982](#page-11-0)).

Despite this ambiguity, our experiments show that I. typographus males perceive a broad spectrum of spruce trap-tree volatiles including both major and minor components. I. typographus antennae responded consistently to at least 18 compounds from collected spruce trap-tree

volatiles including three major spruce monoterpene hydrocarbons ( $\Delta$ -3-carene,  $\alpha$ -pinene, and  $\beta$ -pinene) and less abundant compounds like camphene, myrcene,  $\Delta$ -3-carene, p-cymene, limonene, b-phellandrene, 1,8-cineole, camphor, trans-pinocamphone, terpinen-4-ol, cis-pinocamphone, and verbenone. Antennal activities of individual compounds found in spruce tree-trap volatiles differed. Some compounds present in small quantities, like 1,8-cineole, camphor, trans-pinocamphone, terpinen-4-ol, and cispinocamphone, and verbenone, elicited more pronounced antennal responses then much more abundant spruce monoterpenes  $\alpha$ -pinene and  $\beta$ -pinene. Antennally very active compounds like camphor, trans-pinocamphone, terpinen-4 ol, and cis-pinocamphone were not previously reported in fresh spruce odor (Borg-Karlson et al. [1993](#page-9-0); Persson et al. [1993](#page-10-0), [1996](#page-10-0); Sjödin et al. [2000](#page-10-0); Martin et al. [2002](#page-10-0), [2003](#page-10-0); Zhao et al. [2011\)](#page-11-0). It should be noted, however, that the precise comparison of volatile composition obtained in different laboratories is hardly possible, since the volatile composition is influenced not only by the tree species, its age, previous and present physiology, and many other environmental factors that shaped phenotypes of individual trees, but depends also on the used methodology of sample preparation. Different techniques used for volatile collection produce different chromatographic patterns even for the same sample. Gas chromatograms of spruce volatile samples are complex blends containing many minor peaks that may remained previously unidentified because of limitation in experimental methodology or because peaks of minor volatile compounds might be overlaid by peaks of major ones or because researchers focused on more abundant compounds. The most active minor compounds observed in our study were oxygenated monoterpenes 1,8 cineole, camphor, trans-pinocamphone, cis-pinocamphone, terpinen-4-ol, and verbenone. In general, oxygenated monoterpenes are formed from nonoxygenated precursors by oxidation processes after exposure to the atmosphere or by the activity of microorganisms either present in the wood or transmitted by xylophagous insects (Leufvén et al. [1984,](#page-10-0) [1988](#page-10-0); Leufvén and Nehls [1986](#page-10-0); Hunt et al. [1989;](#page-10-0) Lindmark-Henriksson et al. [2003](#page-10-0), [2004](#page-10-0)). Oxygenated monoterpenes camphor, trans-pinocamphone, and isopinocamphone were found among emanations released from I. typographus galleries created during spruce colonization, and in the surrounding bark (Leufvén and Birgersson [1987](#page-10-0); Birgersson and Bergstrom [1989](#page-9-0)). Oxygenated monoterpenes can also be synthesized in the beetle gut via oxygenation of host monoterpenes as a part of bark beetle aggregation phero-mones (Seybold et al. [2000](#page-10-0)). *Trans*-pinocamphone and isopinocamphone were found in headspace volatiles of I. typographus (Francke et al. [1995\)](#page-9-0).

Many of spruce tree-trap terpenoids that elicited antennal responses in I. typographus are not exclusively specific

for spruce, but are present in the fragrances of many other species of conifers as well as deciduous trees and plants (Knudsen et al. [1993;](#page-10-0) Sjödin et al. [2000;](#page-10-0) Faldt et al. [2001](#page-9-0); Vrkočová et al. [2000](#page-11-0); Dudareva et al. [2004\)](#page-9-0). This indicates that very likely none of the identified compounds alone serves as a signature compound for host plant selection in I. typographus. Attraction to and recognition of appropriate host likely involves a suite of compounds released in particular ratios (Bruce et al. [2005](#page-9-0)) and perhaps in particular enantiomeric composition (Borg-Karlson et al. [1993\)](#page-9-0). Our study show that except abundant spruce monoterpenes, also minor compounds are perceived by I. typographus antennae and thus likely participate in host discrimination. Given that some minor compounds are much more active then the major ones, their behavioral role in I. typographus host discrimination should be further investigated. The involvement of minor spruce compounds in I. typographus host recognition was previously considered only by two researchers. Tømmerås ([1985\)](#page-11-0) and Tømmerås and Mustaparta [\(1987](#page-11-0)) reported that bark emanations strongly stimulate certain olfactory receptor cells. Bark extraction, extract fractionation, and subsequent GC-ESG recording showed that important stimuli for these cells occur among minor compounds, which, however, remained unidentified due to their trace amounts (Tømmerås  $1985$ ; Tømmerås and Mustaparta [1987](#page-11-0)). Based on these observations, Tømmerås and Mustaparta ([1987\)](#page-11-0) speculated that since the major constituents are present in all trees, minor constituents may be those that convey important information about species specificity or host suitability. Recently, minor plant volatiles attract scientific attention, and number of reports implicates their role in attractant or deterrent roles in many insect–plant relationships (reviewed by McCormick et al. [2014\)](#page-10-0).

Our data are in a good agreement with concurrent GC-EAD analysis of spruce volatiles (Schiebe [2012\)](#page-10-0). In addition to compounds identified in our study, Schiebe observed responses to thujan-4-ol, styrene, and pinocarvone, which we have not observed. The discrepancy between the two studies might be due to differences in spruce varieties and methodology of volatile collection and GC–MS analysis. In addition, electrophysiological recordings from bark beetles antennae may provide distinct differences in measured activities. The different olfactory receptor cells located in different sensillar types on ventral side of I. typographus flattered terminal antennal segment have uneven distribution (Hallberg [1981;](#page-9-0) Andersson et al. [2009\)](#page-9-0). Thus, the variation in the size and location of recording electrode may contribute to the observed variations in antennal activities. In spite of these minor variabilities, both studies provide clear evidence that in addition to major spruce monoterpenes, also minor compounds are perceived by I. typographus antennae and thus likely play an role in host discrimination. Electrophysiological studies, however, cannot provide information, whether antennally active compounds mediate attraction or repulsion, neither that all antennally active compounds must be necessarily involved in eliciting behavioral response from I. typographus. Nevertheless, identifying the range of host-associated volatiles that insects can detect represents an important step toward recognition of ecologically important compounds and understanding the role of olfaction in modulating insect behavior.

In majority of previous research focused on the behavioral reactions of I. typographus to spruce volatiles, only major spruce monoterpenes were tested and results have been inconclusive (Billings et al. [1976](#page-9-0); Miller and Borden [1990](#page-10-0), [2000;](#page-10-0) Erbilgin and Raffa [2000;](#page-9-0) Erbilgin et al. [2003,](#page-9-0) [2007](#page-9-0); Saint-Germain et al. [2007](#page-10-0); Coyne and Lott [1976](#page-9-0); Raffa and Smalley [1995](#page-10-0); Wallin and Raffa [2000;](#page-11-0) Byers [2012](#page-9-0)). From minor compound, verbenone which is thought to be formed by autooxidation and/or by microorganisms from  $\alpha$ -pinene in the galleries of bark beetles possess significant repellent influence on several bark beetle genera including I. typographus (Byers and Wood [1980](#page-9-0); Bakke [1981](#page-9-0); Byers et al. [1989;](#page-9-0) Miller et al. [1995](#page-10-0); Rudinsky et al. [1974](#page-10-0); Lingren and Miller [2002;](#page-10-0) Schlyter et al. [1989\)](#page-10-0) and regulates bark beetle aggregation and colonization (Byers [1989](#page-9-0)). Recently, behavioral roles of 1,8-cineole and camphor for I. typographus were investigated (Andersson et al. [2010](#page-9-0)). Thus, 1,8-cineole [repellent, toxic, and antifeedant compound for storage insect pests and mosquitoes, (Klocke et al. [1987;](#page-10-0) Sfara et al. [2009](#page-10-0); Obeng-Ofori et al. [1997](#page-10-0))], has been shown to inhibit attraction of *I. typographus* to its aggregation pheromone (Andersson et al. [2010\)](#page-9-0). Camphor, on the other hand, enhances the pheromone attractiveness (Schlyter and Jakuš, personal communication). Camphor, isopinocamphone, terpinen-4-ol, and verbenone form the attractive kairomone blends for spruce bark beetles parasites Coeloides bostrichorum and Rhopalicus tutela (Sulivan and Berisford [2004\)](#page-11-0).

## Conclusion

The spruce trap-tree scent contains many substances that are not specific to spruce but are widespread among plants. The olfactory system of I. typographus perceives wide spectrum of these volatiles including those present in small quantities. Based on these observations, we hypothesize that I. typographus discriminates suitable host based on complex mixture of spruce volatiles where minor compounds play an important role.

Acknowledgments Grants FRVŠ 2954/G4, CIGA CZU 3109, NAZV QH81136, MA CR 0002070203, and financial support

<span id="page-9-0"></span>provided by the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (subvention for development of research organization RVO: 61388963) are gladly acknowledged. We thank to J. Titzenthalerová for her skillful assistance in GC-EAD experiments.

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