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1	Interactions between pollinator and non-pollinator fig wasps
2	: correlations between their numbers can be misleading
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23 Abstract

24 Ficus and their species-specific pollinator fig wasps represent an obligate plant-insect 25 mutualism, but figs also support a community of non-pollinating fig wasps (NPFWs) 26 that consist of gall makers and parasitoids/inquilines. We studied interactions between 27 Kradibia tentacularis, the pollinator of a dioecious fig tree species Ficus montana, and 28 an undescribed NPFW Sycoscapter sp. Sycoscapter sp. oviposited 2-4 weeks after 29 pollinator oviposition, when host larvae were present in the figs. No negative correlation 30 was found between the numbers of the two wasp species emerging from figs in a semi-31 natural population, which might suggest that the two species do not interact. However, 32 in experiments where the numbers of pollinator foundresses entering a fig were 33 controlled, Sycoscapter sp. significantly reduced the numbers of pollinator offspring. 34 Consequently, it can be concluded that Sycoscapter sp. is a parasitoid of K. tentacularis 35 (that may also feed on plant tissue). Sycoscapter females concentrate their oviposition in 36 figs that contain more potential hosts, rendering invalid conclusions based on simple 37 correlations of host and natural enemy numbers.

38

39 Key words: Agaonidae, Ficus, inquiline, Kradibia, NPFW, parasitoid, Sycoscapter

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45 **INTRODUCTION**

46 Insect parasitoids have long been popular subjects for ecological studies, because of their 47 importance as natural enemies and biological control agents and because they are ideal for 48 developing relatively simple population models (Hassell 2000). Features that influence the 49 susceptibility of herbivores to parasitoids, such as the plants where they are feeding, and 50 where on the plants they feed, have also received considerable attention (Askew 1961; 51 Cornell & Hawkins 1993). Parasitoids are characterized by their method of feeding, which 52 typically involves a single host individual (usually another insect) and results in the death 53 of their host. 54 The relationship between pollinating wasps (Agaonidae) and their host fig trees 55 (Ficus) is a classic example of obligate mutualism (Galil 1977; Janzen 1979) and dates 56 back tens of millions of years (Compton et al. 2010). Each fig tree depends upon one or a 57 small number of host specific pollinating wasp species to provide pollination services and 58 in turn fig trees provide breeding sites for pollinator offspring, which develop inside galled 59 ovules within the figs (Weibes 1979; Yu & Compton 2012).

Figs are also hosts to a number of other fig wasps that do not have any role in
pollination (non-pollinating fig wasps, NPFWs). Fig wasp communities (comprising
species belonging to several families of Chalcidoidea, in addition to Agaonidae, Heraty et
al. 2013) can be diverse, with up to 30 or more species associated with a single tree
(Compton & Hawkins 1992; Segar et al. 2013) and several species sharing a single fig
(Compton et al. 2009a). NPFW offspring are often abundant and can outnumber pollinator
offspring (Bronstein 1991; Bronstein & Hossaert-McKey 1996). NPFWs generally have

67 larvae that develop inside galled ovules, like pollinator larvae, though some species also 68 develop inside galls that form inside the outer wall of figs. Ovule-feeding NPFWs are 69 traditionally classified as gallers, parasitoids or inquilines that destroy other fig wasps and 70 also feed on plant tissues, but the detailed biology of most species is unknown (Compton & 71 van Noort 1992; West & Herre 1994; Kerdelhue & Rasplus 1996). Seed-feeding species, 72 secondary gallers and specialist hyper-parasites have also been described (Pereira et al. 73 2007; Chen et al. 2013; Compton et al. 2009b) and the utility of separating inquiline and 74 parasitoid species has recently been questioned, because they have the same impact on host 75 population dynamics (Chen et al. 2013). NPFW communities vary greatly between fig 76 species (Compton & Hawkins 1992) in terms of wasp species richness, but there is 77 evidence of some convergence in community structure (Segar et al. 2013). Some NPFWs 78 appear to be host tree specific, like most pollinators (Ulenberg 1985) but the extent of their 79 host specificity is variable (Zhou et al. 2012). Fig trees with dioecious breeding systems 80 (with male trees with figs that support pollinator offspring and female trees with figs that 81 usually only produce seeds) have less species rich NPFW communities than monoecious fig 82 trees, where fig wasps and seeds develop in the same figs (Weiblen 2002; Kerdelhue & 83 Rasplus 1996).

Unlike the pollinators, most NPFWs oviposit from outside of the figs, at a specific stage of fig development, but regardless of oviposition timing all fig wasp species usually emerge from galls inside the figs at the same time and often use a shared exit hole chewed mainly by male pollinating wasps (Compton et al. 1984; Kerdelhue et al. 2000; Suleman et al. 2012). Kerdelhue et al. (2000) identified three ecological groups of non pollinators on the basis of their timing of oviposition. Ovule-galling NPFWs oviposit at or shortly before

90 the time of pollinator entry, while parasitoids/inquilines oviposit later (Compton 1993b; 91 Peng et al. 2005). Gallers that oviposit early in fig development often induce large galls 92 and are independent of the pollinators. They act as competitors of the pollinating species, occupying individual ovules and sometimes making the figs unsuitable for entry by 93 94 pollinators (Kerdelhue 2000). Parasitoids/inquilines oviposit later, feeding in galls induced 95 by other species and killing their larvae. These NPFWs potentially have a negative impact 96 on pollinator populations, though some species target other NPFWs rather than pollinators 97 (Compton 1993a; Compton et al. 1994; Herre & West 1997; Kerdelhue et al. 2000). 98 Despite their ubiquity, the impacts of NPFW on the fig tree pollination mutualism are not 99 well understood (Galil et al. 1970; West & Herre 1994; Cook & Power 1996, Segar et al. 100 2013) and studies are generally based on comparisons of the contents of naturally-occurring 101 figs, rather than experiments. Ficus montana Blume is a small SE Asian dioecious fig tree, 102 with a small associated fig wasp fauna that usually comprises just two species, the 103 pollinator (Kradibia tentacularis Grandi) and an undescribed species of Sycoscapter 104 NPFW (Pteromalidae) (Zavodna 2004). Sycoscapter species are generally assumed to be 105 parasitoids of pollinator larvae (Compton 1993b; Cook & Power 1996; Kerdelhue & 106 Rasplus 1996; Kerdelhue et al. 2000), but conclusive evidence is lacking. Utilizing 107 glasshouse populations of K. tentacularis and Sycoscapter sp. we addressed the following 108 questions: at what stage of fig development does Sycoscapter sp. oviposit? Are the numbers 109 of pollinator and Sycoscapter offspring in naturally-pollinated figs negatively correlated? 110 And is the relationship between pollinator and NPFW offspring numbers the same in figs 111 where pollinator foundress numbers are controlled experimentally?

113 MATERIALS AND METHODS

114 **Study site and species**

112

The work was carried out under controlled conditions at the Experimental Gardens of the
University of Leeds. The fig wasps and trees originated from the Centre for International
Forestry Research (CIFOR) plantation, West Java and from Rakata, Krakatau islands,
Indonesia (Moore 2001).

119 Ficus montana is a small gynodioecious (functionally dioecious) shrub or scrambler 120 found along rivers or in distributed forest in S.E. Asia (Berg & Corner 2005). The 121 developmental stages of figs are generally subdivided according to the terminology devised 122 by Galil & Eiskowitch (1968) for monoecious figs that was later modified by Valdeyron & 123 Lloyd (1979) for dioecious species. The stage before wasp entry is called the A or 'pre 124 floral' phase. The receptive or B phase is the time when the pollinator wasps enter the fig 125 through the ostiole, losing their wings and part of their antennae. The subsequent phase is 126 the C or 'inter floral' phase, in which the wasps develop within male figs and seeds develop 127 in the female figs. At the D or 'male' phase the next generation of wasps emerges, the 128 anthers open, and the female wasps leave the figs, loaded with pollen. Female fig plants 129 lack a male phase and have only one extended 'post receptive' phase (E), during which the 130 figs ripen and become attractive to seed dispersers.

Like many other dioecious figs, F. montana has asynchronous fruiting within plants
(Suleman et al. 2011a), allowing pollinators and NPFW to cycle among a small number of

133 trees or even on an individual plant. There is also significant variation in flower numbers 134 within the figs produced by different individuals growing under uniform conditions 135 (Suleman et al. 2013a). Pollinating females of K. tentacularis seek out figs at the receptive 136 stage, enter, attempt to oviposit and pollinate and then either die or leave in an attempt to 137 oviposit in another fig (Suleman 2007). These (wingless) foundresses are able to locate and 138 enter figs up to 60 cm from the first fig they enter (Suleman et al. 2013c). The NPFW 139 Sycoscapter sp. needs figs that have already been entered by pollinators (Raja 2007). 140 Females oviposit from the outside of the figs and their larvae develop into adults inside the 141 ovules. As with pollinators, one larva develops in each galled ovule. Male Syscoscapter 142 are apterous and, unusually for NPFW mating occurs inside the female's galls as well as the 143 fig lumen. Both species complete their development at the same time, hatch and mate. At 144 this time the male fig flowers have mature pollen and the adult female pollinator offspring 145 actively collect the pollen that they will transport to new receptive figs. Intersexual mimicry 146 enables this pollination to take place by deceit (Suleman et al. 2011b). Both Sycoscapter 147 and pollinator males can produce the exit holes through the fig wall that allow their females 148 to escape, but only pollinator males co-operate to achieve this (Suleman et al. 2012). 149 Sycoscapter males have large jaws and aggressively fight each other.

150

151 **Timing of oviposition of Sycoscapter sp.**

152 Sequential bagging of male figs was used to time when oviposition by Sycoscapter sp.

153 takes place (Compton 1993b). One female pollinator was introduced into each fig and the

154 figs were enclosed in fine cotton bags afterwards to prevent entry by more pollinators.

155 Three figs from the first replicate group were exposed to Sycoscapter sp. after one week

and they remained open for that whole week. At the end of the week these three figs were bagged again and three others were exposed. The same process was repeated till the end of the seventh week so that some figs were exposed to Sycoscapter sp. throughout C phase, when pollinator larvae are developing. The experiment was repeated six times on different dates to control for any variation in Sycoscapter sp. abundance over time.

161

162 The impact of Sycoscapter sp. on pollinators in the general glasshouse population

163 Male figs at early C phase were selected, labeled and tagged. After about 3-4 weeks, when

164 these fig fruits were mature and had reached early D phase, they were dissected to

165 determine the numbers of K. tentacularis and Sycoscapter sp. adult offspring present.

166

167 Impact of Sycoscapter sp. in figs with a controlled number of pollinator foundresses 168 Nineteen receptive B phase male fig fruits were selected and divided into two groups. In 169 both groups one pollinator foundress was introduced to each fig using a fine paint brush 170 and then enclosed in fine mesh bags to prevent further entry of foundresses. Subsequently, 171 some of the figs had at least eight female Sycoscapter sp. introduced into each bag on four 172 consecutive days. The timing of their introduction was based on the results of the sequential 173 bagging experiments described above. The remaining figs represented a Sycoscapter-free 174 control group. When the figs were mature (early D phase), they were dissected to determine 175 the numbers of adult pollinator and NPFW offspring, un-pollinated (and un-oviposited) 176 flowers and bladders (empty galled flowers, which mostly will have had fig wasps egg laid 177 in them, Ghana et al. 2012).

179 Data analysis

180	The relationship between numbers of pollinator and NPFW in the general glasshouse
181	population was analysed using Pearson's correlation. Differences in the numbers of fig
182	wasps and bladders between control figs and those experimentally exposed to Sycoscapter
183	were analysed using Poisson GLMs; to take into account any possible effect of differing
184	numbers of female flowers between figs, analyses were also carried out on the proportion
185	of female flowers that contained wasps or bladders, using binomial GLMs. In all GLMs,
186	over-dispersion was accounted for by including figs as a random effect. Analyses were
187	performed in Stata 11.0.
188	
189	RESULTS
190	Oviposition timing
191	Sycoscapter sp. only oviposited during a period of 2-4 weeks after the pollinators had laid
192	their eggs in the figs (Table 1). At this time host larvae are available to attack, but plant
193	material is still present inside the galled ovules alongside the pollinator larvae.
194	

195 The impact of Sycoscapter sp. on pollinators in the general glasshouse population

196 Out of 114 figs, only seven had no Sycoscapter sp. present. The numbers of pollinator

197 progeny and Sycoscapter sp. progeny averaged $18.85 \pm 1.03 (\pm SE)$ and $12.31 \pm 0.71 (\pm SE)$

198 respectively. The maximum numbers of progeny present were 55 K. tentacularis and 36

199 Sycoscapter sp. Pearson product correlation detected no association between the numbers

200 of pollinators and Sycoscapter sp. sharing figs ($r^2 = 0.004$, P = 0.97).

201

202 The impact of Sycoscapter sp. in figs with a single foundress

203 In contrast to the results from the general population, Sycoscapter sp. significantly reduced 204 the numbers of pollinator progeny inside figs that had been entered by a single foundress (Wald χ^2 =9.53, P =0.002, Table 2). A similar reduction was seen in the proportion of 205 female flowers that contained pollinators (Wald $\chi^2 = 22.7$, P <0.001). This fall in pollinator 206 207 numbers was not due to the killing of pollinator larvae during Sycoscapter sp. oviposition, 208 as we did not find a significant influence of Sycoscapter sp. on the numbers or proportions of empty galls (numbers: Wald χ^2 1.05, P = 0.31; proportions: Wald χ^2 =0.42, P=0.52, 209 210 Table 2). This conclusion is reinforced by comparing the combined number of Sycoscapter 211 sp. and pollinator progeny in figs exposed to the parasitoid, compared with the other figs 212 where only pollinators were present (Table 2). The total numbers of wasps in the figs, and 213 the overall proportion of flowers that contained wasps, were similar in the two groups (numbers: Wald γ^2 =1.25, P=0.26; proportions: Wald γ^2 =0.03, P=0.87) 214 215

216 **DISCUSSION**

Sycoscapter sp. oviposits into figs about 2-4 weeks after pollinator entry, when pollinator
larvae are present in the figs. In the natural community, where variable numbers of
foundresses entered the figs, there was no correlation between the numbers of adult
offspring of the two fig wasp species. This could be interpreted as an indication that the two

221	species do not interact, with the two species utilizing ovules that are different distances
222	from the fig wall, for example. However, in experiments where the numbers of pollinator
223	foundresses entering a fig were controlled, Sycoscapter sp. significantly reduced the
224	numbers of pollinators, with the combined numbers of offspring of the two species the
225	same as that of pollinators alone in those figs where Sycoscapter sp. was absent. The
226	contrast between these conclusions probably results from Sycoscapter females preferring to
227	oviposit in figs that initially contained larger numbers of pollinator larvae (Suleman et al.
228	2013b). Its negative impact was only evident after controlling the numbers of pollinator
229	foundresses entering figs and the presence or absence of Sycoscapter.
230	Comparisons with other studies of pollinator-NPFW interactions reinforce the
231	impression that non-experimental studies can underestimate or fail to detect the impact of
232	NPFW. As in our study, Patel (1998) found no correlation between the numbers of
233	pollinating and NPFW offspring sharing figs, and Peng et al. (2005) even recorded a
234	positive correlation between the numbers of NPFW and pollinators in figs of F. hispida.
235	Kerdelhue et al. (2000) nonetheless were able to detect a significant negative relationship
236	between the numbers of offspring of pollinators and a different Sycoscapter sp. in figs of
237	Ficus sagittifolia. A positive relationship between the numbers of pollinator and NPFW
238	offspring can be generated if there is sufficient variation between figs in the number of
239	flowers (and therefore potential oviposition sites). Conversely, if parasitoid NPFW do not
240	strongly aggregate in figs containing more initial pollinator offspring, then negative
241	correlations between their numbers are to be expected. Even so, only by controlling for
242	initial pollinator numbers, and taking into account variation in flower numbers, can a more
243	accurate picture be obtained.

245 Sycoscapter sp. is either a parasitoid of K. tentacularis that kills its host after it has 246 consumed all the contents of each galled ovule, or an inquiline that kills the pollinator 247 larvae and subsequently feeds on some plant tissue. No plant material remains inside the 248 galled ovules after pollinator and Sycoscapter sp. adults emerge and dissections of figs at 249 varying ages only detected single larvae inside each gall. This suggests that Sycoscapter sp. 250 is not an ectoparasitoid. It is likely to be either an endoparasitoid that allows host larvae to 251 consume all the contents of the ovules before killing them, or an endoparasitoid which also 252 feeds on plant material after emerging from its host larva. Whether or not any plant 253 material is directly consumed by Sycoscapter sp. larvae does not modify the extent of its 254 negative interactions with the pollinator and indirectly with the pollinator's host plant. 255

256 NPFWs are ubiquitous associates of figs, but their biology has received relatively 257 little attention, compared with that of pollinator fig wasps (Bronstein 1991; Cook & Power 258 1996; Kerdelhue & Rasplus 1996). Experimental manipulations of predators have 259 nonetheless demonstrated the extent of NPFW impact in a monoecious fig tree species 260 (Compton & Robertson 1988) and Weiblen et al. (2001) showed similarly large effects in 261 dioecious figs. The study of oviposition behavior and feeding habits is important for 262 developing an understanding the role of NPFW in natural fig wasp communities (Morris et 263 al. 2003). Pollinators and NPFWs oviposit at specific stages during fig maturation, but 264 regardless of the timing of oviposition, all fig wasp species usually emerge from the galls at 265 the same time as the pollinators and often use the same exit hole, made by male pollinators, 266 to escape (Weiblen 2002). As the timing of oviposition is rarely determined precisely, most

267	studies have emphasized qualitative differences in the timing of fig wasp oviposition (West
268	& Herre 1994; West et al. 1996). This allows NPFWs to be classified according to the
269	times when female wasps oviposit in the figs (Kerdelhue et al. 2000) and the timing to be
270	related to the lengths of their ovipositors and the diameters of figs and thickness of walls of
271	figs at those times (Compton et al. 1994; Kerdelhue & Rasplus 1996; Peng et al. 2005).
272	Experimental manipulations nonetheless remain important if the strengths of interactions
273	between fig wasp species are to be quantified.
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275	
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280

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413	Table 1 The relationship between oviposition by Sycoscapter sp. and the times after
414	pollinator entry when the figs were exposed. Figs were exposed for one week periods at
415	various times after a single pollinator fig wasp had been introduced into each fig.

Days	Proportion of	Number of	Number of	Proportion
exposed to	figs colonized	Pollinators per	Sycoscapter per	Sycoscapter
Sycoscapter	(n/total)	fig (mean ± SE)	fig (mean ± SE)	(mean ± SE)
sp.				
7-13	0 (0/12)	42 ± 6	0	0
14-20	0.85 (11/13)	30 ± 5	11 ± 2	0.32 ± 0.06

21-27	0.67 (8/12)	29 ± 2	10 ± 2	0.24 ± 0.05
28-34	0 (0/14)	30 ± 3	0	0
35-41	0 (0/10)	32 ± 5	0	0
42-48	0 (0/10)	30 ± 5	0	0

- 419 Table 2
- 420 Summary of the contents of figs entered by a single foundress that were exposed to
- 421 Sycoscapter sp. (n=9 figs) and those that were not exposed to Sycoscapter sp. (n=10 figs).
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	With Sycoscapter sp.		Without Sycoscapter sp.	
	Mean	SE	Mean	SE
Male pollinators	7.3	0.6	8.3	0.8
Female pollinators	26.2	5.9	44.2	3.3
Total pollinators	33.6	5.9	52.5	3.5
Male parasitoids	4.6	0.7		
Female parasitoids	22.0	1.7		
Total parasitoids	26.6	1.9		
Total wasps	60.1	6.0	52.5	3.5
Un-pollinated flowers	13.9	3.8	16.4	4.1
Total bladders	31.6	3.3	27.6	5.7
Total female flowers	105.6	8.3	96.5	9.3
Total male flowers	17.1	2.2	15.4	1.7
Total flowers	122.7	9.1	111.9	9.6