



Effects of warming on herbivore-induced plant volatiles in the tundra

Tao Li, Jolanta Rieksta, Anders Michelsen, **Riikka Rinnan**

Department of Biology and Center for Permafrost

University of Copenhagen, Denmark

riikkar@bio.ku.dk



Functional
plant traits

Permafrost
thaw &
soil carbon

Eddy
covariance
& remote
sensing



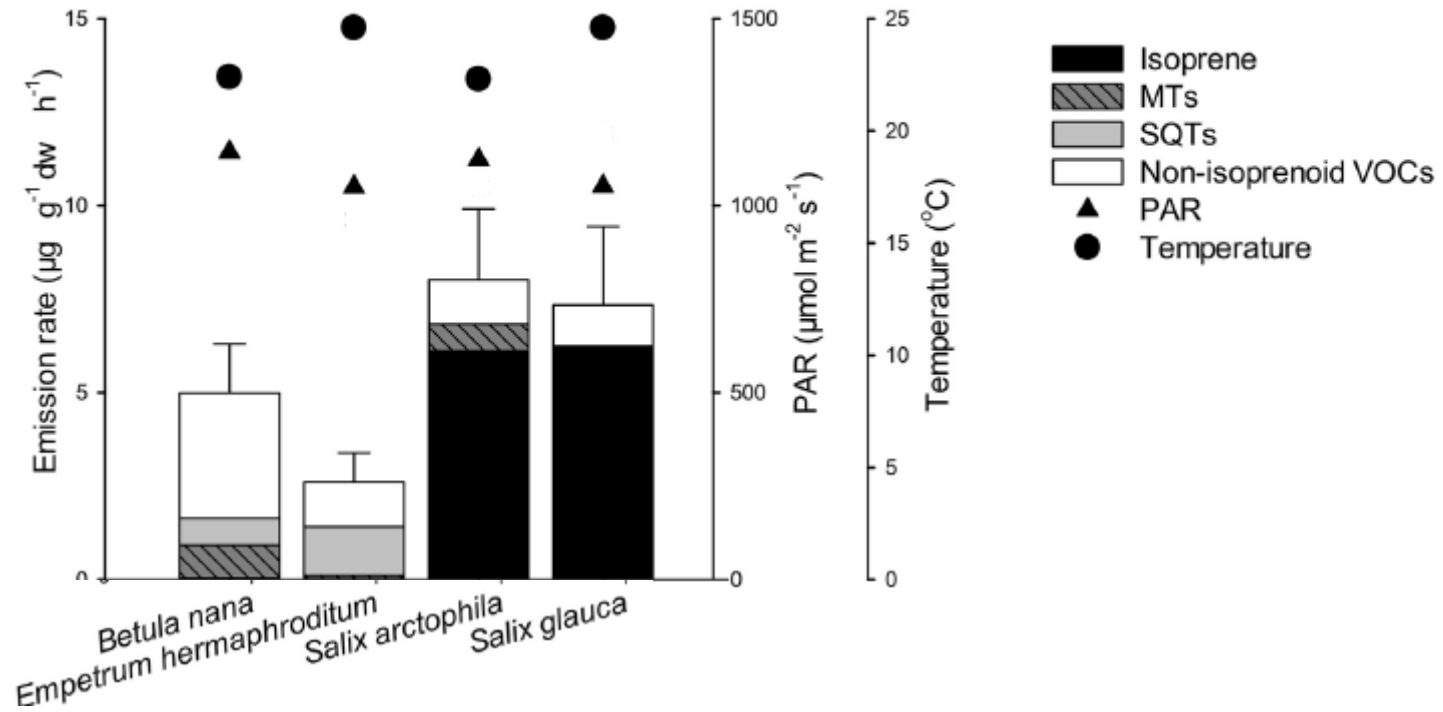
But today we focus on insect herbivory...

What are
plant volatiles?

Volatile Organic Compounds, VOCs

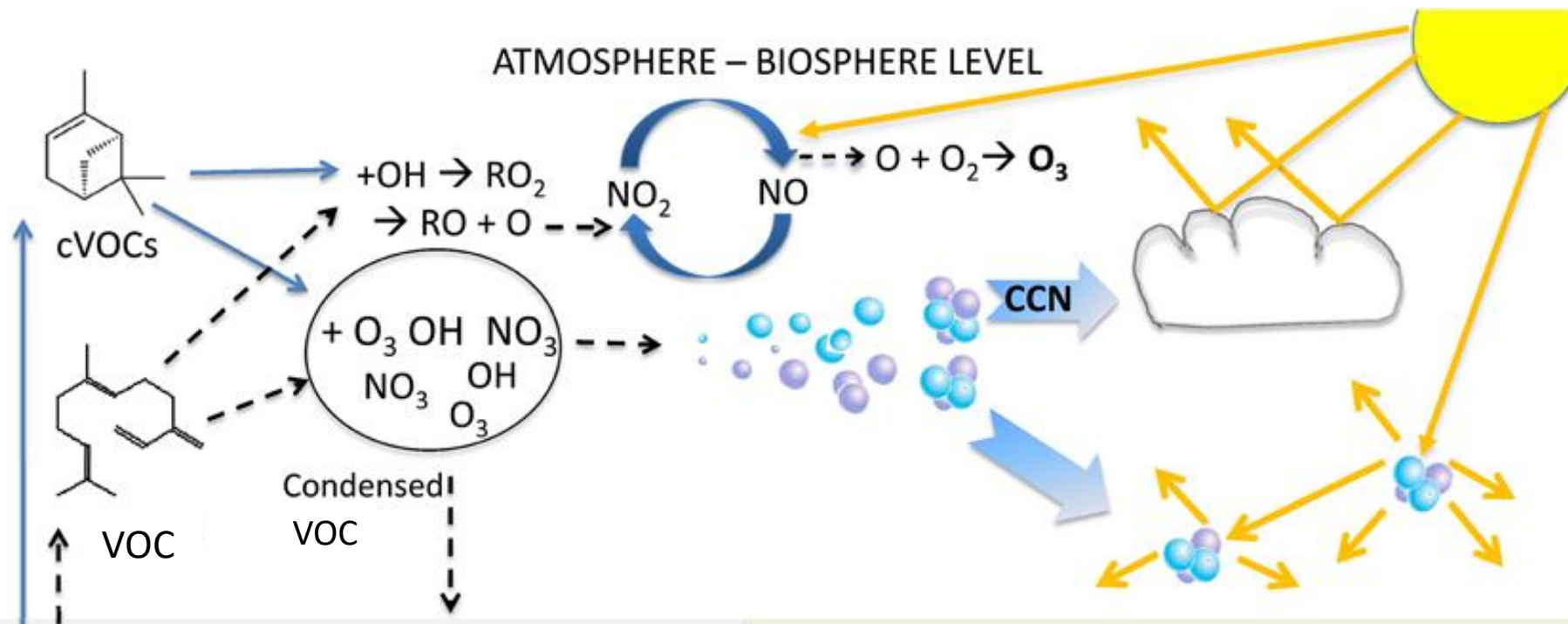


Each plant species has different VOC "bouquet" - Vegetation changes alter ecosystem VOC emissions

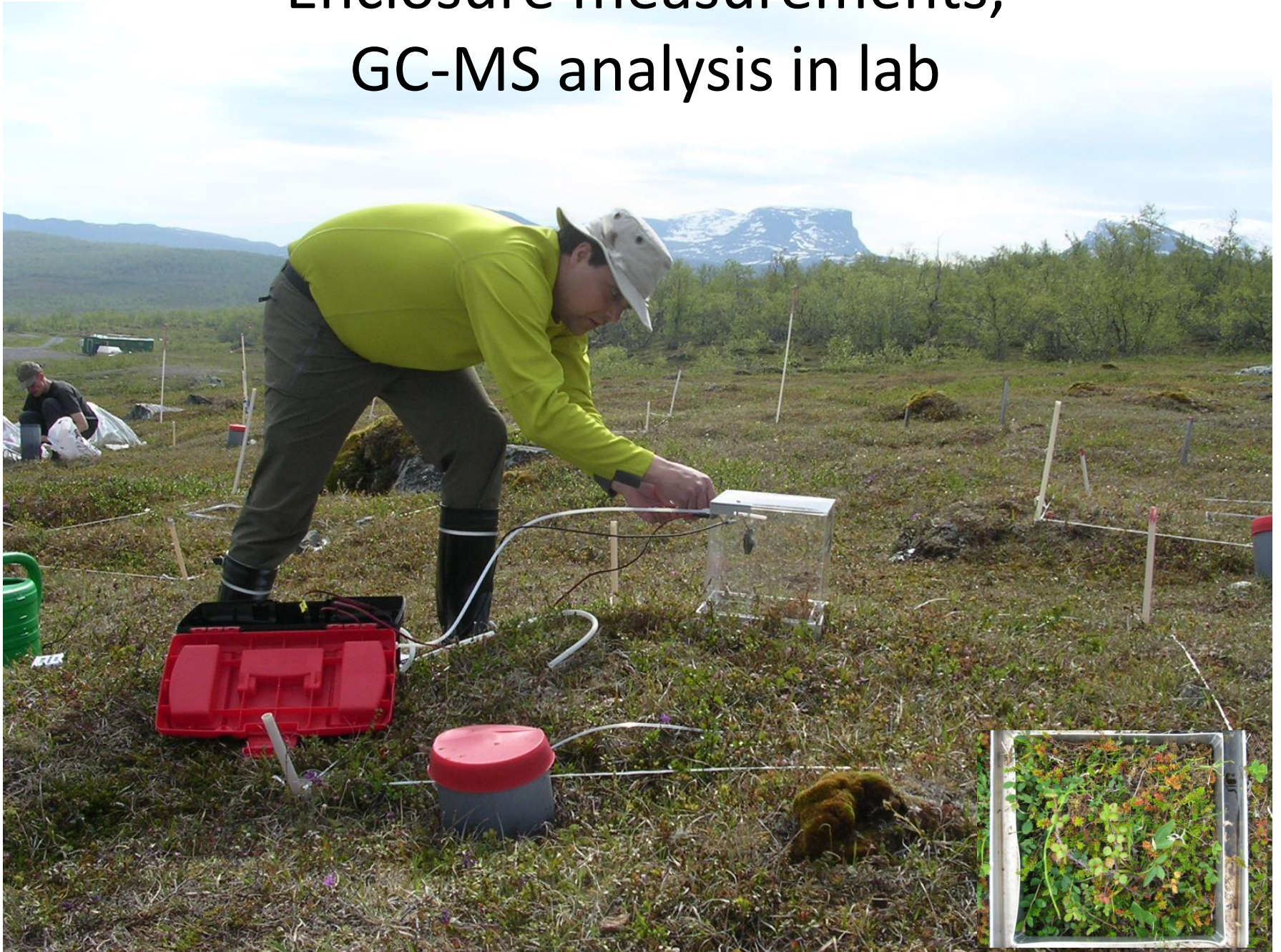


The atmosphere

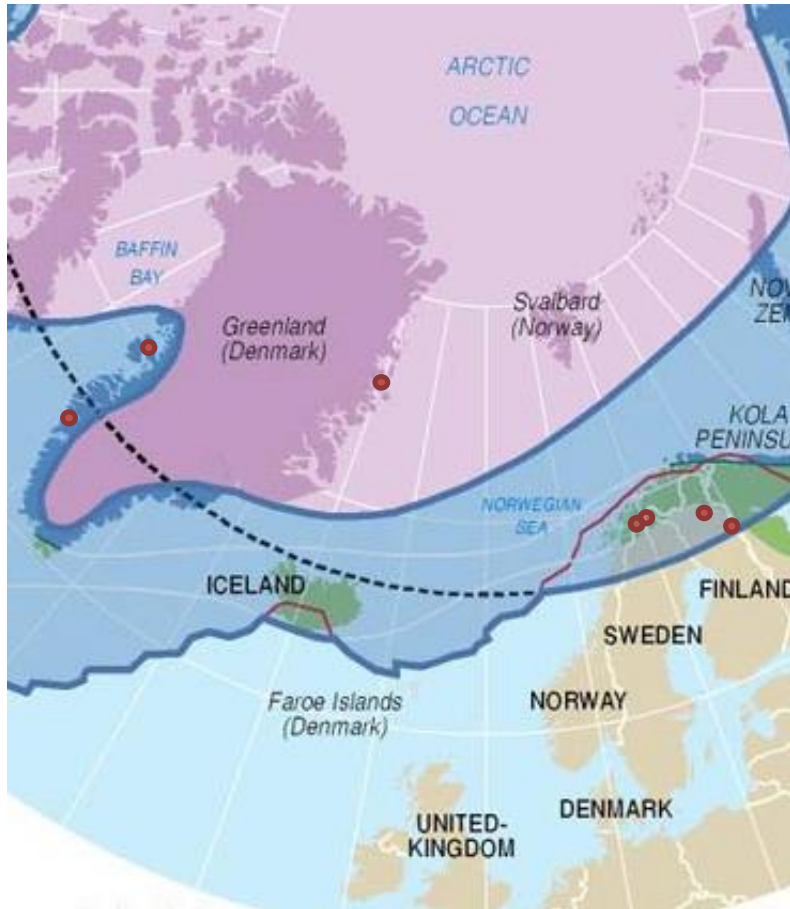
Compound	Concentration (parts per billion, ppb)	Lifetime (years)
Nitrogen	781 000 000	1.6×10^7
Oxygen	209 000 000	>3000
CO ₂	400 000	not defined (5-200)
CH ₄	1800	12
N ₂ O	300	110
Methanol	1-10	0.02
Toluene	0.5-2	0.02
Isoprene	0.5-10	0.0002
Monoterpenes	0.5-2	0.0000001-0.001



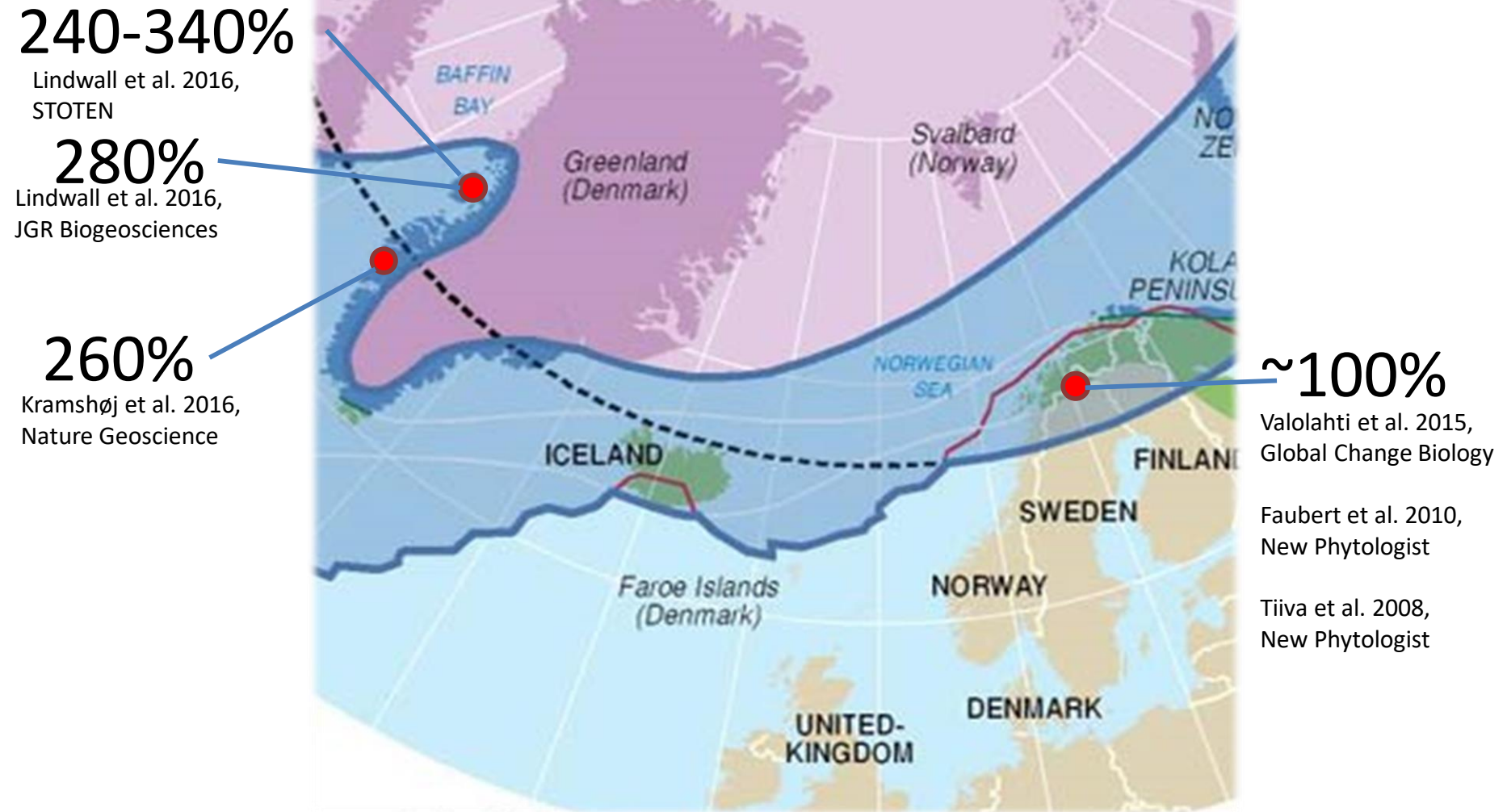
Enclosure measurements, GC-MS analysis in lab



Long-term multifactor experiments



OTC warming causes large increases in arctic tundra VOC emissions, irrespective of the time perspective



Are VOC emissions from **alpine tundra** outside the Arctic as temperature sensitive?

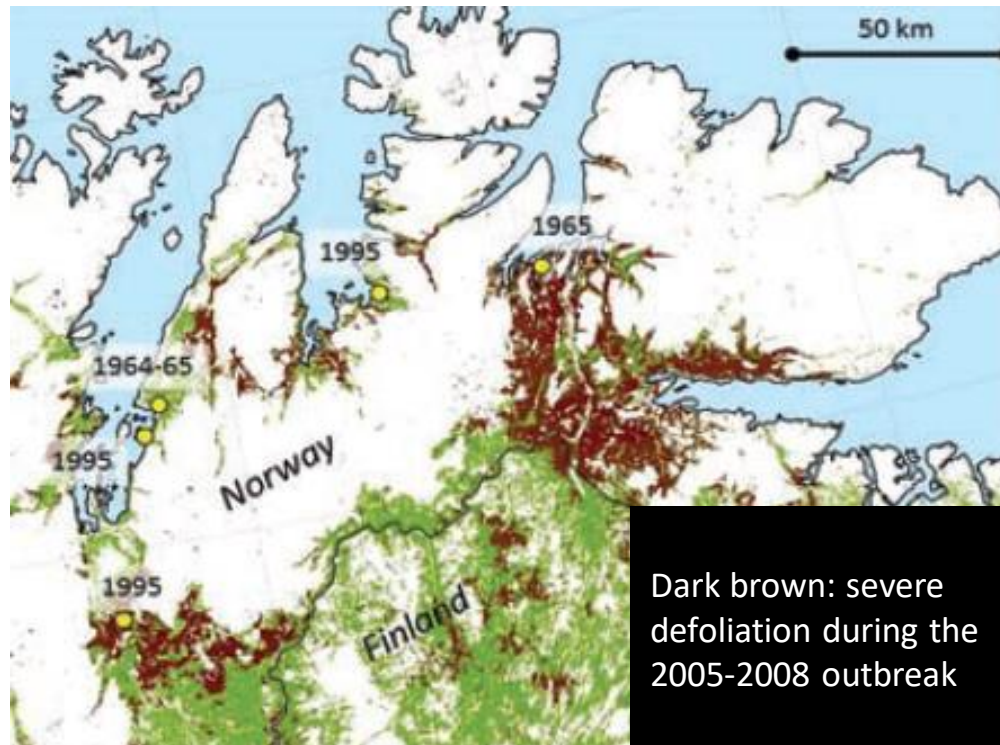


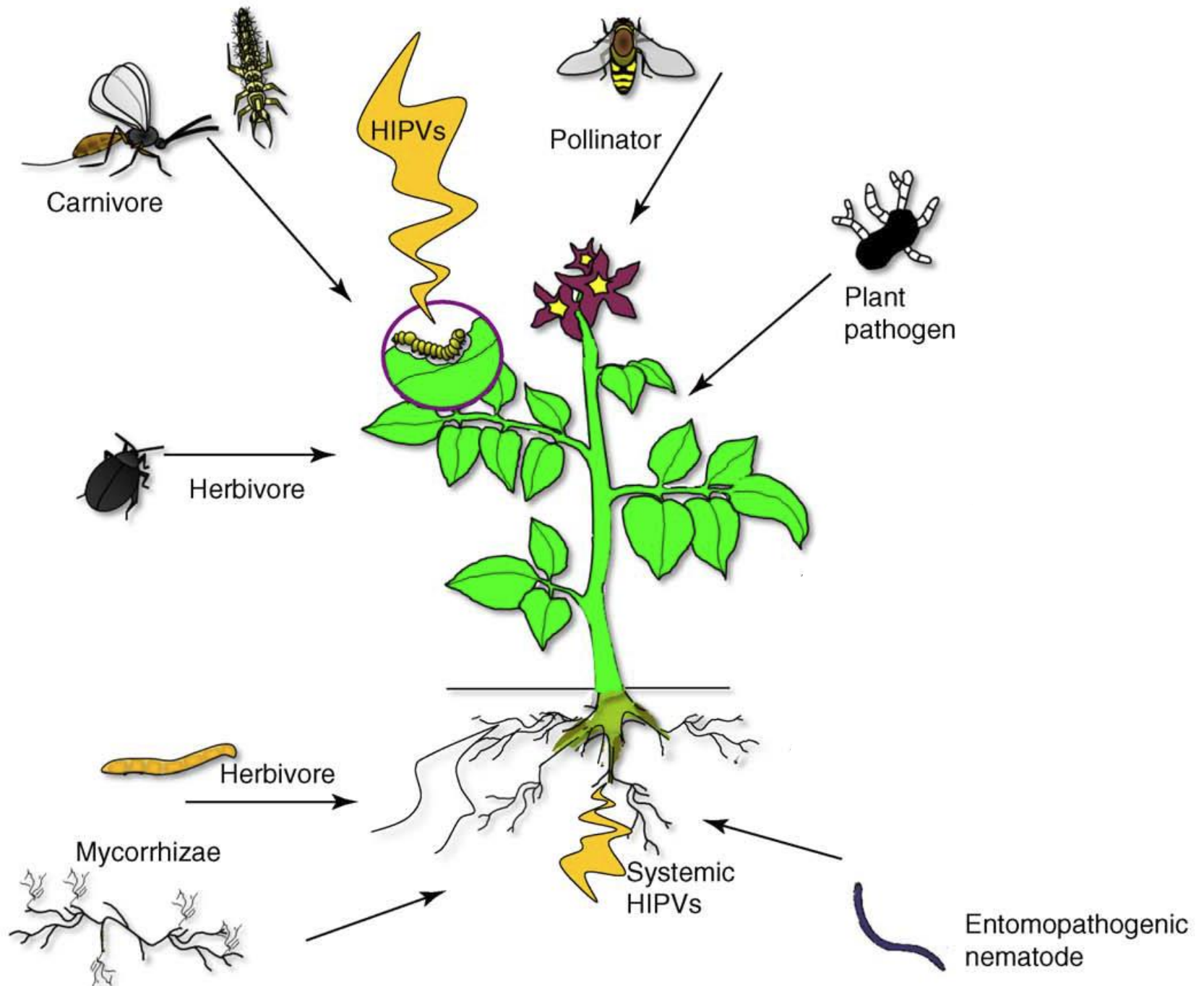
Contact me
if interested in
collaboration!

What about biotic stresses like
insect herbivory?



Outbreaks of the geometrids *Operophtera brumata* and *Epirrita autumnata* in subarctic birch forests





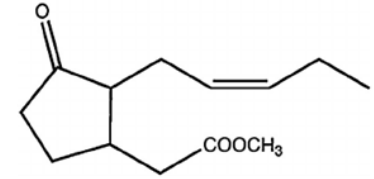
Abisko, Sweden



Comparison of larval feeding and mimicked herbivory effects on *Betula nana* volatiles



Epirrita autumnata

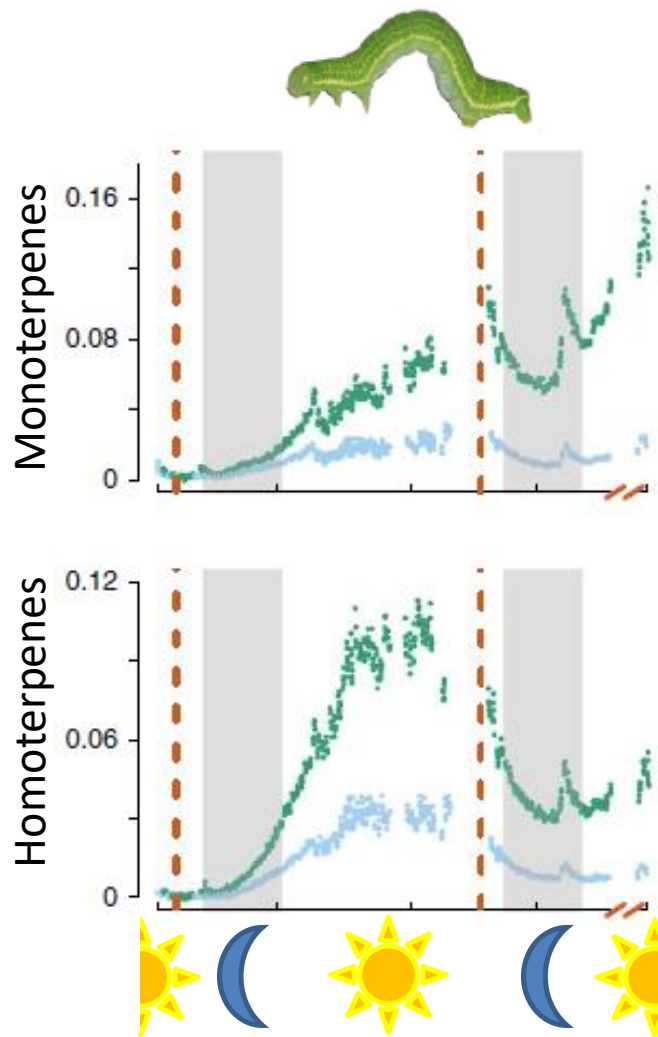


Methyl jasmonate (MeJA)

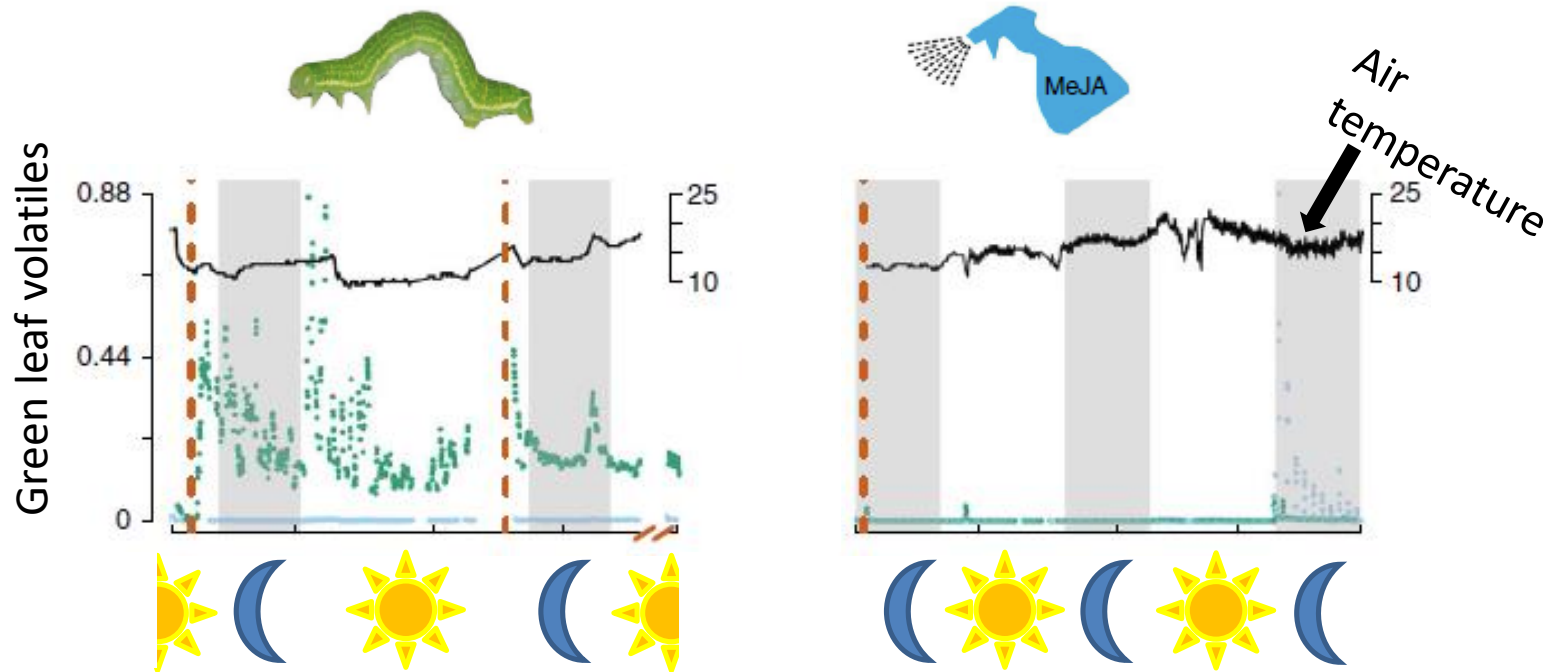


Proton transfer reaction-time of flight-mass spectrometer

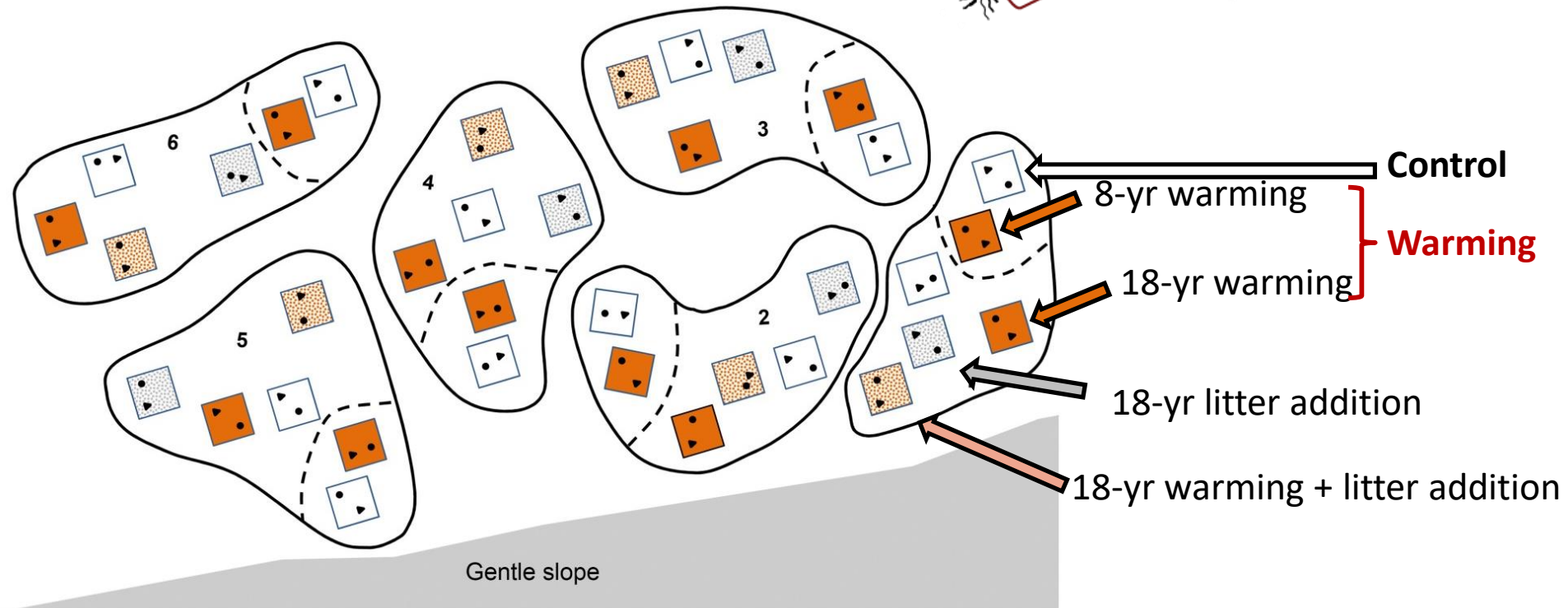
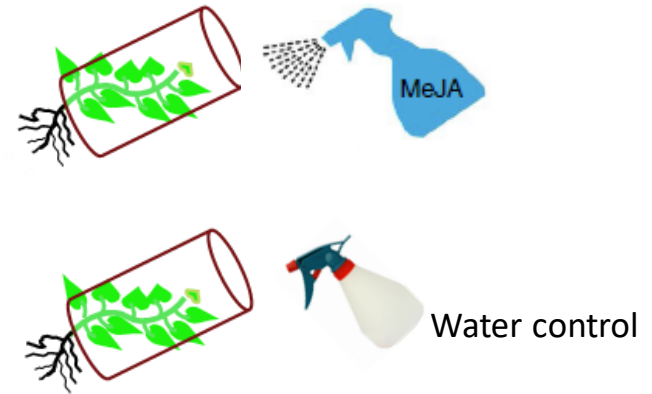
Larval feeding and mimicked herbivory (MeJA-treatment) had similar effects on *induced* VOCs



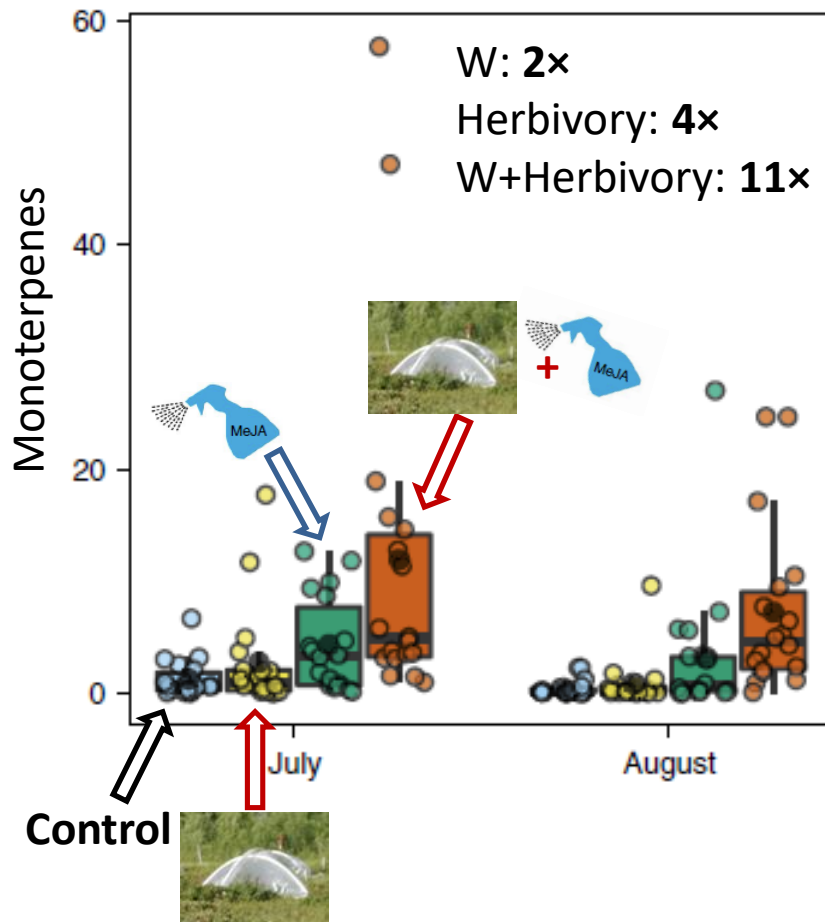
But MeJA-treatment did not mimic larval feeding effects on compounds released from broken tissue



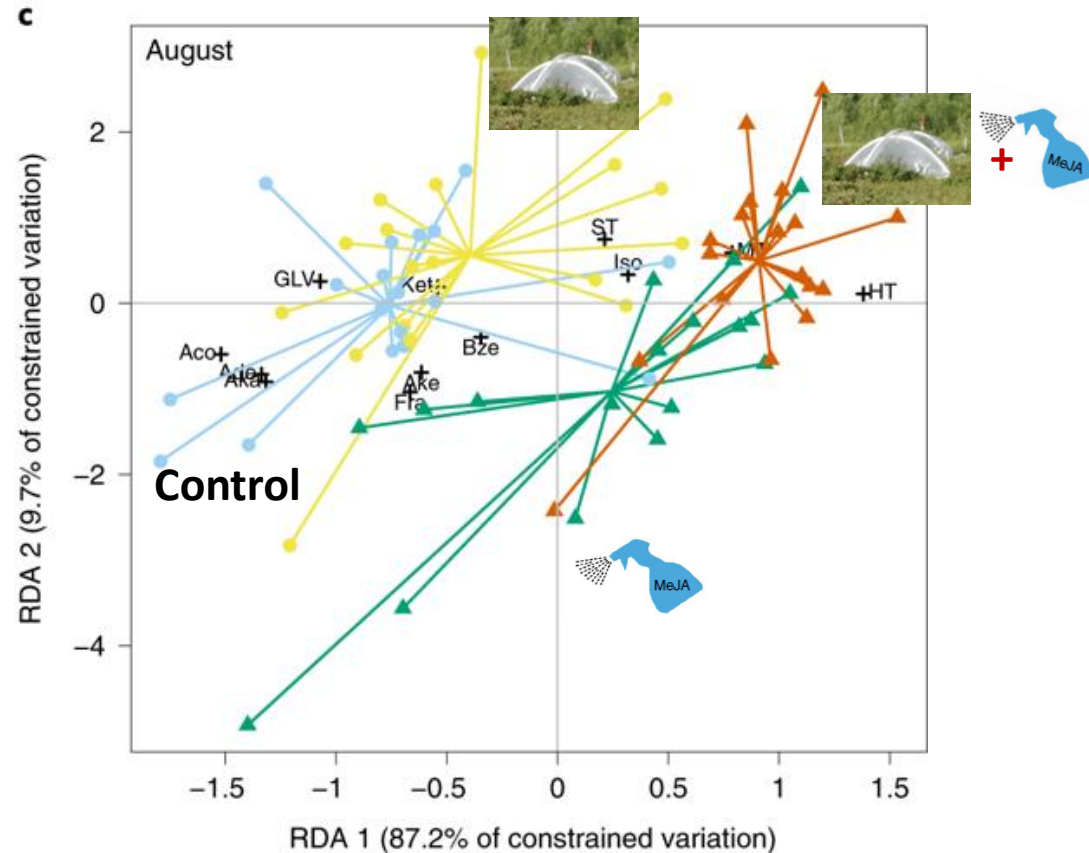
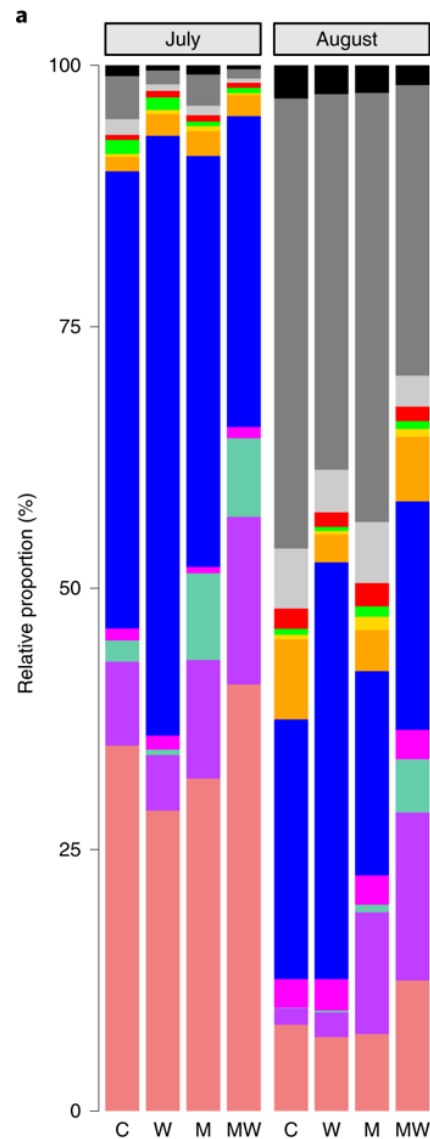
Effects of warming and herbivory on *Betula nana* volatiles



Warming amplifies effects of herbivory on *Betula nana* volatiles



Compound composition of *Betula nana* volatiles strongly altered by herbivory



Herbivory drastically increases
VOC release

especially under
warmer climate

but how does warming impact
herbivory?

Effects of warming on herbivory



Leaf area loss

estimated in 3 *B. nana* twigs per plot

Warming since 1989



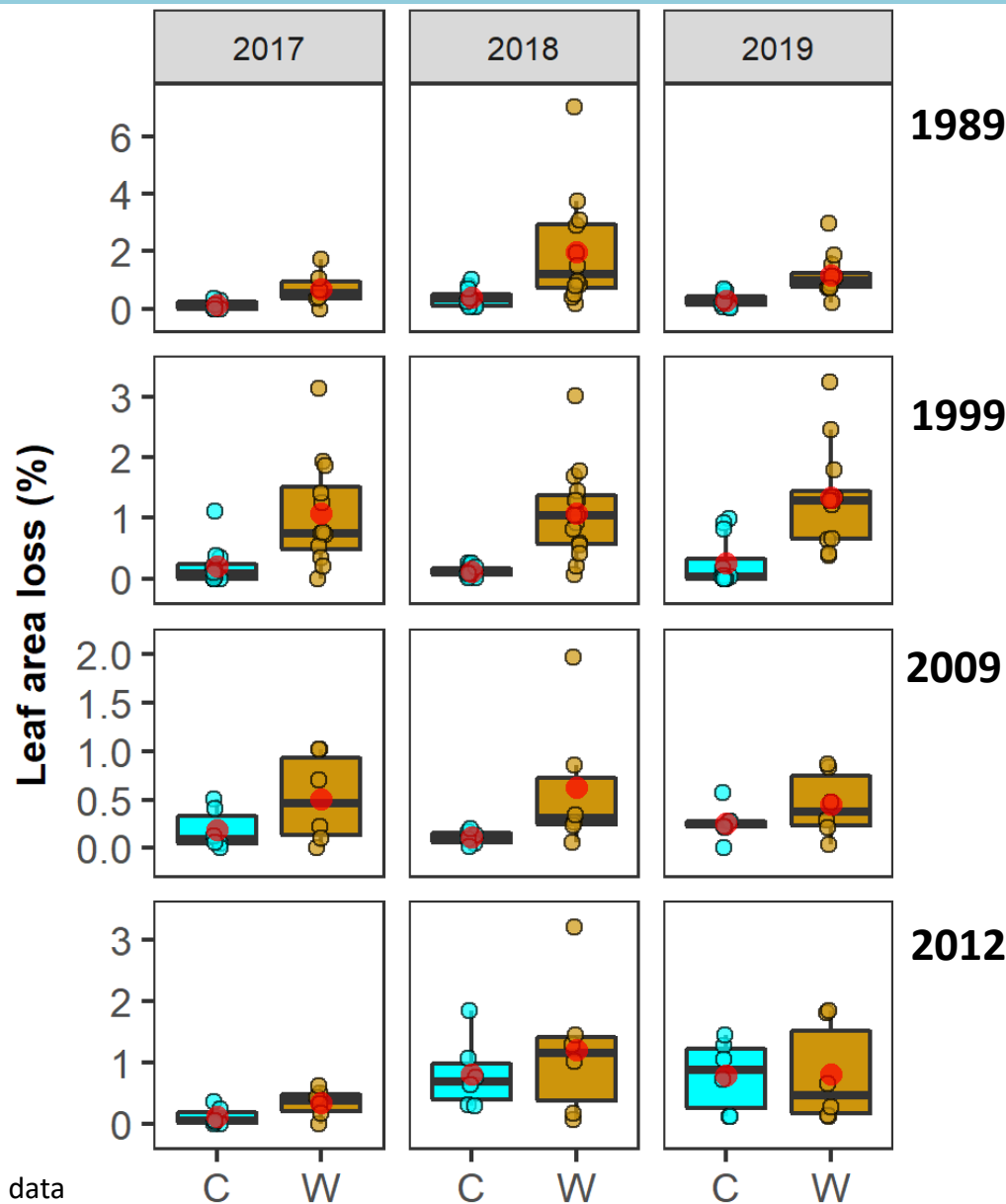
1999 & 2009



2012



OTC warming strongly increases leaf area loss due to chewing insects



Take-home messages

- **Biotic stress (insect herbivory) drastically increases VOC release from *B. nana***

Induced production

changed compound composition

- **Warming amplifies the herbivory effects**
- **OTCs increase herbivory damage**

Importance on atmospheric chemistry and climate?

Implications on ecological interactions?

Thank you!

Contact: riikkar@bio.ku.dk

 @Riikka_Rinnan

