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# Exploring the Kairomone-Based Foraging Behaviour of Natural Enemies to Enhance Biological Control: A Review

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Kairomones are chemical signals that mediate interspecific interactions beneficial to organisms that detect the cues. These attractants can be individual compounds or mixtures of herbivore-induced plant volatiles (HIPVs) or herbivore chemicals such as pheromones, i.e., chemicals mediating intraspecific communication between herbivores. Natural enemies eavesdrop on kairomones during their foraging behaviour, i.e., location of oviposition sites and feeding resources in nature. Kairomone mixtures are likely to elicit stronger olfactory responses in natural enemies than single kairomones. Kairomone-based lures are used to enhance biological control strategies via the attraction and retention of natural enemies to reduce insect pest populations and crop damage in an environmentally friendly way. In this review, we focus on ways to improve the efficiency of kairomone use in crop fields. First, we highlight kairomone sources in tri-trophic systems and discuss how these attractants are used by natural enemies searching for hosts or prey. Then we summarise examples of field application of kairomones (pheromones vs. HIPVs) in recruiting natural enemies. We highlight the need for future field studies to focus on the application of kairomone blends rather than single kairomones which currently dominate the literature on field attractants for natural enemies. We further discuss ways for improving kairomone use through attract and reward technique, olfactory associative learning, and optimisation of kairomone lure formulations. Finally, we discuss why the effectiveness of kairomone use for enhancing biological control strategies should move from demonstration of increase in the number of attracted natural enemies, to reducing pest populations and crop damage below economic threshold levels and increasing crop yield.

**Keywords:** field application, attractant blend, HIPVs, pheromones, semiochemicals, crop yield, olfactory learning

## INTRODUCTION

The foraging behaviour of a parasitoid or predator is a process by which it searches for oviposition sites and feeding resources for its survival, growth, and reproductive success [reviewed in Kramer (2001)]. Natural enemies (used hereafter in reference to both parasitoids and predators) play a key role in the biological control of chewing, sucking, and gall-feeding herbivores (Vidal and Murphy, 2018). Understanding the foraging behaviour of natural enemies is crucial for improving the biological control of herbivorous pests (e.g., Mills and Wajnberg, 2008; Gunton and Pöyry, 2016; Mills and Heimpel, 2018). Parasitoids have long served as an insect model in the study of foraging behaviour for oviposition sites, which has often been viewed as a three-sequence process: habitat location, host location, and host selection (Vinson, 1998; Fatouros et al., 2008). However, this behavioural process can also be applied to predatory insects searching for prey (Fellowes et al., 2007; Pervez and Yadav, 2018). During each of these foraging behavioural sequences, natural enemies rely on a combination of environmental stimuli to find their host and prey (hereafter jointly referred to as herbivores). Although kairomones and visual signals are exploited by natural enemies, the former is well-known to play an important role in their foraging behaviour (Colazza and Wanjberg, 2013; Lim and Ben-Yakir, 2020). Kairomones are individual semiochemical molecules or mixtures that mediate interspecific interactions between living organisms (Dicke and Sabelis, 1988; Kost, 2008), while serving as long-range, short-range, and contact cues during herbivore location by natural enemies (Afsheen et al., 2008; Heil and Ton, 2008). Kairomones exploited by natural enemies are either plant volatiles or herbivore-associated chemicals such as pheromones (Afsheen et al., 2008; Kaplan, 2012a; Kaiser et al., 2017; Peñafior, 2019).

Herbivory-induced plant volatiles (HIPVs) and oviposition-induced plant volatiles (OIPVs) are the reliable plant volatile compounds that serve as long-range kairomones enabling natural enemies to locate herbivore-infested plants (e.g., Dicke and van Loon, 2000; Mumm and Dicke, 2010; Hilker and Fatouros, 2015; Turlings and Erb, 2018). The use of HIPVs and OIPVs to attract natural enemies has been pointed out as a novel avenue to achieve successful biological control (Kaplan, 2012a; Kelly et al., 2014; Murali-Baskaran et al., 2018; Peri et al., 2018). For example, (*E*)-4,8-dimethyl-1,3,7-nonatriene (DMNT), an elm plant (*Ulmus minor* Mill [Ulmaceae]) OIPV induced by *Xanthogaleruca luteola* (Müller) (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae), attracted the parasitoid *Oomyzus gallerucae* (Fonscolombe) (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) in the field (Büchel et al., 2011). In addition to HIPVs and OIPVs, kairomones include chemicals emitted from different herbivore stages (eggs, larvae/nymphs, pupae, adults), herbivore by-products (e.g., frass, honeydew, exuviae, mandibular gland secretions, defence secretions, etc.) which are exploited by natural enemies in their selection of oviposition and feeding sites [reviewed in Afsheen et al. (2008)]. For instance, application of hydrocarbons, e.g., tricosane identified in extracts of *Heliothis zea* (Boddie) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)

moth scales, increased the efficiency of host location by the parasitoids *Trichogramma achaeae* Nagaraja and Nagarkatti (Hymenoptera: Trichogrammatidae) and *Microplitis croceipes* (Cresson) (Hymenoptera: Braconidae), thereby increasing the parasitisation rate in the field (Gross et al., 1975; Lewis et al., 1975).

Pheromones are highly species-specific in mediating intraspecific interactions between the emitter and its conspecifics (Dicke and Sabelis, 1988; Kost, 2008). They can be grouped into the following categories: (i) sex pheromones, (ii) aggregation pheromones, (iii) marking pheromones, and (iv) alarm pheromones (Kost, 2008; Ruther, 2013). Eavesdropping is a well-known phenomenon among natural enemies which use pheromones of herbivorous insects as kairomones to detect them (Aukema and Raffa, 2005). A typical example is reported by Kpongbe et al. (2019) who demonstrated that isopentyl-butanoate—the aggregation pheromone of *Clavigralla tomentosicollis* Stål (Hemiptera: Coreidae)—strongly attracts *Gryon* sp. (Hymenoptera: Scelionidae), the parasitoid of *Clavigralla* species. However, not only herbivore pheromones play a role in the attraction of herbivore enemies, i.e., pheromones released by natural enemies also attract conspecific individuals seeking for mates (Ruther, 2013), and may modulate their responses to HIPVs (Cabello et al., 2017). For example, pheromones from males of the predator *Nabis pseudoferus* Remane (Hemiptera: Nabidae) attracted conspecific females and enhanced their responses to HIPVs from *Rhopalosiphum padi* (L.) (Hemiptera: Aphididae)-infested wheat plants, whereas pheromones from males of the mirid predator *Nesidiocoris tenuis* (Reuter) (Hemiptera: Miridae) attracted conspecific females but were found to reduce their attraction to the HIPVs (Cabello et al., 2017).

Kairomone-based lures are deployed in crop plants of which the background odours shape the location of herbivores by natural enemies (e.g., Schröder and Hilker, 2008; Randlkofer et al., 2010). In this review, we focus on how to optimise field applications of kairomones for improving biological control of insect pests. First, we present sources of kairomones in tri-trophic systems and discuss how these kairomones are exploited by natural enemies foraging for hosts or prey. Then we provide examples of kairomone field applications, and we stress how the attraction of natural enemies into crop fields might be more efficient when using pheromones rather than HIPVs. Finally, we highlight potential ways to improve the use of kairomone-based lures for attracting enough natural enemies to reduce pest populations and crop damage below economic threshold levels while increasing crop yields in the field.

## CHEMICAL INTERACTIONS IN TRI-TROPHIC SYSTEMS

Chemically mediated multitrophic interactions occur both below and above ground between a diversity of organisms among four trophic levels in agro-ecosystems (Aartsma et al., 2019; Stelinski et al., 2019). Research on chemical interactions aiming

at controlling insect pests are, however, usually focused on tri-trophic systems typically composed of plants, herbivores and natural enemies (Price et al., 1980; Kaplan, 2012b; Mbaluto et al., 2020), and in this section we summarise these tri-trophic chemically mediated interactions at above ground level (**Figure 1**). Organisms at each trophic level emit chemical cues (emitters) to mediate intraspecific and/or interspecific interactions with other organisms that detect the cues (receivers). These interactions can be direct or indirect (Wootton, 1994). A direct interaction occurs between two organisms without an intermediary, whereas an indirect interaction necessitates the presence of, or occurs through, at least one intermediary which is usually a third species (**Figure 1**) (Wootton, 1994). Plants (emitters) emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs) which are exploited by herbivores (receivers) to locate host plants (direct interactions) (Bruce and Pickett, 2011). Plants (emitters) also release HIPVs and OIPVs to attract natural enemies (receivers) for controlling herbivores (intermediary) (indirect interactions; **Figure 1**) (Hilker and Fatouros, 2015; Turlings and Erb, 2018). In addition to HIPVs and OIPVs that mediate the indirect plant defences, the role of zoophytophagous-induced plant volatiles (ZIPVs) in plant-insect chemical communication has recently gained attention (**Figure 1**) (Pappas et al., 2015; Pérez-Hedo et al., 2015). Zoophytophagous insects are sap sucking predators which can feed on plants and consequently induce the release of volatiles that attract conspecific and heterospecific predators, as well as parasitoids (Pérez-Hedo et al., 2015; Rim et al., 2018). This effect is like that induced by herbivores feeding on plants. Compared to volatiles of unexposed tomato plant (*Solanum lycopersicum* L. [Solanaceae]), ZIPVs from tomato plant volatiles induced by the mirid predator *Nesidiocoris tenuis* (Reuter) (Hemiptera: Miridae) were found to attract conspecific males and females (Rim et al., 2018) and the parasitoid *Encarsia formosa* Gahan (Hymenoptera: Aphelinidae) (Pérez-Hedo et al., 2015). Undamaged plants can also perceive HIPVs, OIPVs, ZIPVs, and herbivore pheromones as signals to mount defences against herbivores to the benefit of the host plant community (known as plant priming defences) (**Figure 1**) (Dicke and Bruin, 2001; Frost et al., 2008; Pérez-Hedo et al., 2015), but the priming defence is not observed in all plant species as reported for cotton plants exposed to pheromones (Magalhães et al., 2019) and tea plants exposed to the HIPV (E)-4,8-dimethyl-1,3,7-nonatriene (Jing et al., 2020).

Natural enemies release pheromones that directly mediate interactions with their respective conspecifics (Ruther, 2013). While herbivores release pheromones to communicate with conspecific individuals to their benefit, their natural enemies eavesdrop on these communication cues to locate them to their disadvantage (Aukema and Raffa, 2005). Herbivores and their by-products such as larval frass, larval mandibular secretions, and honeydew also release chemical compounds that serve as kairomones for natural enemies in locating herbivores (Afsheen et al., 2008). Understanding chemical interactions between plants, herbivores, and natural enemies (**Figure 1**) is key to designing and implementing kairomone-based biological control measures in agro-ecosystems. In the following sections, we focus

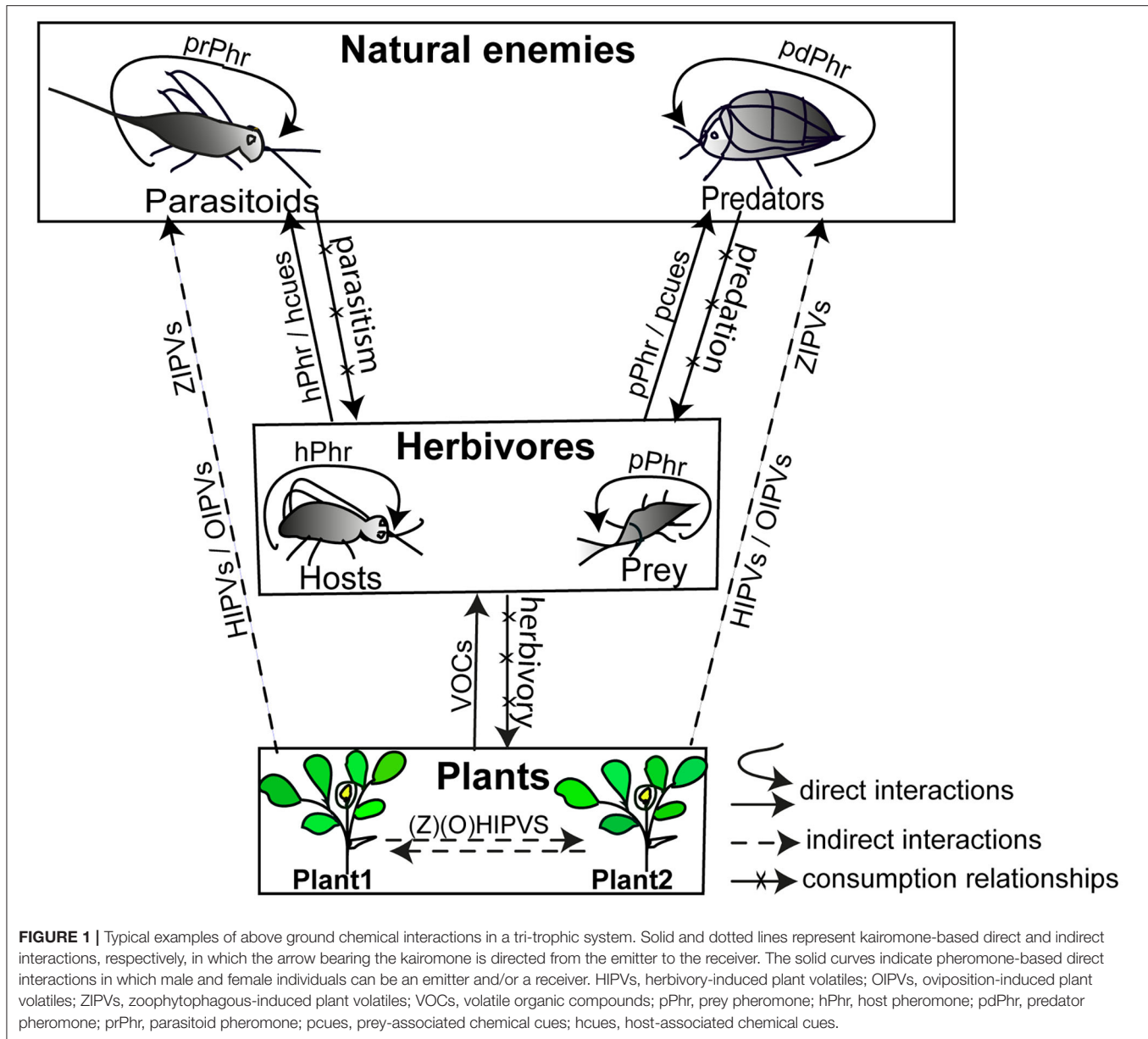
on above-ground chemical interactions in which natural enemies are receivers of pheromones and kairomones involved (**Figure 1**).

## HOST PLANT AND HERBIVORE LOCATION BY NATURAL ENEMIES WITHIN THE ODOUR LANDSCAPE

Natural enemies foraging for herbivores locate infested host plants within the heterogeneous plant community using a sequence of behaviours (**Figure 2**). This is a tedious task since host plants are embedded in a semiochemically heterogeneous environment composed of diverse plant species and multiherbivore communities whose signals influence the detection of reliable kairomones during host or prey location (e.g., Schröder and Hilker, 2008; Randlkofer et al., 2010). This complex dynamic sensory environment has been described as an “odour landscape” which is composed of different odour plumes (an odour plume is a blend of volatile compounds carried by the wind) (Atema, 1996). How insects track relevant or resource-indicating odour plumes within the odour landscape has recently been reviewed (Beyaert and Hilker, 2014). Foraging insects can follow a single or several relevant odour plumes during which they shift from one odour plume to another if this conveys a more reliable signal (or indicates a more suitable resource), and they continue this behaviour until they find the target host plant (Beyaert and Hilker, 2014). During foraging, natural enemies rely on a diversity of resource-indicating odours to first locate the host plant within the plant community (section Role of Herbivore-Induced Plant Volatiles in Long-Range Location of Host Plants), then find the potential infesting herbivores (section Herbivore Volatiles for Host or Prey Location), and finally select and accept the target host or prey upon landing on the host plant (section Herbivore Contact Kairomones for Host/Prey Recognition and Acceptance) (**Figure 2**).

### Role of Herbivore-Induced Plant Volatiles in Long-Range Location of Host Plants

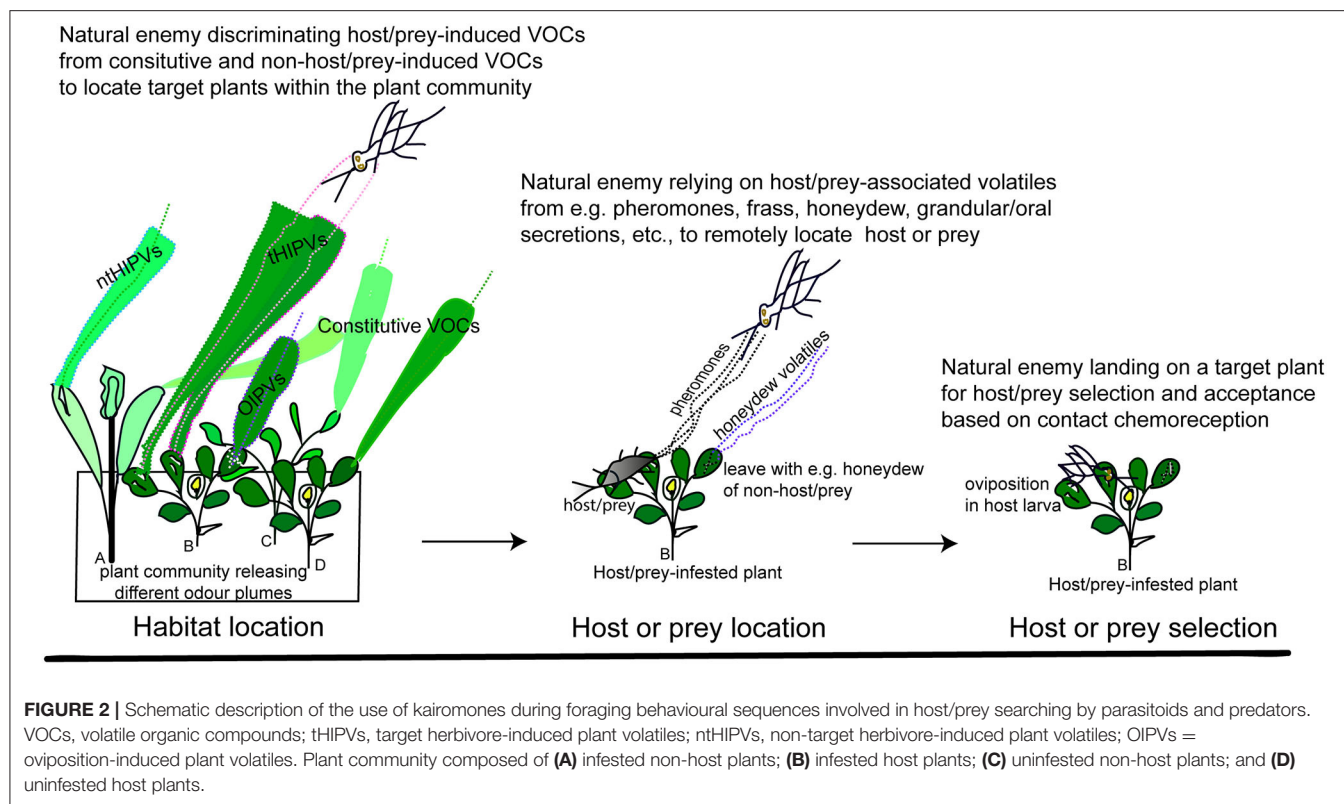
Plants emit VOCs while undamaged, known as constitutive VOCs, and herbivory or oviposition usually results in an increase in the constitutive VOCs and/or release of specific herbivore-induced volatiles, known as inducible VOCs (e.g., HIPVs and OIPVs). Although natural enemies may sometimes be attracted by odour plumes of constitutive VOCs, evidences have culminated in the literature that the odour plumes of HIPVs and OIPVs are those that play the key role in the foraging behaviour, serving as long-range signals that natural enemies exploit to locate plants infested by their hosts or prey within the plant community (**Figure 2**) (e.g., Kessler and Baldwin, 2001; Heil and Ton, 2008; Kaplan, 2012a; Beyaert and Hilker, 2014). Plants are usually infested by several herbivore species that are hosts or non-hosts for natural enemies (Vos et al., 2001). Infesting herbivore species may induce the same or different plant defence pathways (i.e., Salicylic Acid inducer [SA-inducer] and Jasmonic Acid-inducer [JA-inducer]), each affecting the composition of volatiles produced (Danner et al., 2018). The attraction of



natural enemies to infested plants depends on factors such as the infesting herbivores, i.e., single or multiple species; the suitability of the herbivores, i.e., hosts or non-hosts; the infesting herbivore density; and the activated plant defence pathways, i.e., SA and/or JA. For example, the parasitoid *Cotesia marginiventris* (Cresson) (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) was reported to be more attracted to volatiles of maize plants infested by only *Spodoptera littoralis* (Boisduval) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae), a JA-inducer, than plants infested by both *S. littoralis* and *Euscelidius variegatus* (Kirschbaum) (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae), an SA-inducer (Erb et al., 2010). In multi-herbivore systems, the location of target herbivore-infested plants by natural enemies may be disrupted by the co-infestation of non-target herbivores (Takabayashi et al., 2006). The parasitoid *Cotesia plutellae* (Kurdjumov)

(Hymenoptera: Braconidae) were less attracted to volatile blends from cabbage plants simultaneously infested by caterpillars of both host (*Plutella xylostella* [L.] [Lepidoptera: Plutellidae]) and non-host (*Pieris rapae* [L.] [Lepidoptera: Pieridae]) species compared to volatiles released from host *P. xylostella*-infested plants (Shiojiri et al., 2001). However, this is not always the case, as illustrated by the fact that the larval parasitoid *Cotesia glomerata* (L.) (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) was more attracted to plants damaged by larvae of both host *P. rapae* and non-host *P. xylostella* compared to plants damaged by host *P. rapae* alone (Shiojiri et al., 2001). The herbivore-infestation level also affects the response of natural enemies to infested plants. The parasitoids *C. glomerata* and *Cotesia vestalis* (Haliday) (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) were more attracted to volatiles of cabbage plants





with high levels of *P. rapae* and *P. xylostella* larval infestation than those with low infestation levels (Shiojiri et al., 2010). Whereas, relative to volatiles of healthy plants, the predator *Harmonia axyridis* (Pallas) (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) was reported to prefer volatiles of cabbage plants infested by an intermediate density of *Myzus persicae* (Sulzer) (Hemiptera: Aphididae) adults, but it showed no preference for plants infested with low and high densities of *M. persicae* (Yoon et al., 2010). Therefore, natural enemy species show different attraction responses to volatiles of infested plants depending on the specificity and density of infesting herbivores (De-Moraes et al., 1998; Shiojiri et al., 2010; McCormick et al., 2012).

The infesting herbivore species and its feeding mode (e.g., leaf chewing, leaf mining, phloem sap sucking, and cell content feeding) determine the plant defence signalling pathways to be activated (either SA or JA alone, or both). Emission of volatiles is regulated by the biosynthesis pathway(s) activated, and qualitative and quantitative differences are substantial between plant volatiles from SA- vs. JA-herbivore inducers (Danner et al., 2018). Chewing herbivores are known to activate the JA-pathway (Danner et al., 2018), while leaf mining larvae likely activate both JA- and SA-pathways (Yang et al., in press). For sap sucking herbivores, however, some species like whiteflies are known to induce a single pathway, i.e., SA (Zhang et al., 2013), whereas others like stink bugs induce both JA- and SA-pathways (Giacometti et al., 2016). A comparison of volatiles from tomato plants infested by the leaf miner *Tuta absoluta* (Meyrick) (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae) larva, and the phloem sap sucking feeder *Bemisia tabaci* (Gennadius) (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae)

adult, revealed that  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -copaene, as well as valencene, were released in higher amounts from plants infested by the sap sucking insect (Silva et al., 2017). Whereas (Z)-3-hexen-1-ol, (E)- $\beta$ -ocimene, methyl salicylate, and  $\beta$ -caryophyllene were higher from plants infested by the leaf miner, in addition to some novel compounds such as (Z)-jasnone and (Z)-3-hexen-1-yl crotonate (Silva et al., 2017). Volatile compounds released by single and dual herbivore-infested plants also differ quantitatively and qualitatively. Infestation of tomato plants by both *T. absoluta* and *B. tabaci* led to increased emission of  $\beta$ -myrcene, limonene,  $\gamma$ -terpinene, and  $\beta$ -elemene than in plants infested only by *T. absoluta* or *B. tabaci*, whereas  $\alpha$ -pinene emission increased in *T. absoluta*-infested plants (Silva et al., 2018). Conversely, cotton plants simultaneously infested by the leaf chewing larvae of *Spodoptera exigua* (Hübner) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) and adults of *B. tabaci* emit lower amounts of HIPVs than plants infested only by *S. exigua* larvae, as a result of so-called “cross-talk” between SA- and JA-signalling pathways (Rodriguez-Saona et al., 2003). Natural enemies rely on these differences to find specific herbivore-infested plants (Mumm and Dicke, 2010; Shiojiri et al., 2010). Herbivores can also suppress the plant defence mechanisms and volatile emission when feeding, which could be a strategy to deceive natural enemies from locating herbivore-infested plants. The feeding and extracts of oral secretion of the leaf chewing larvae of *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Smith) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) were found to suppress the emission of HIPVs in maize plants (De-Lange et al., 2020). Similarly, suppression of HIPV emission in host plants was reported upon herbivory by cell content feeders

(e.g., spider mites and thrips) (Schausberger, 2018) and phloem sap sucking feeders (e.g., whiteflies and aphids) (Walling, 2008; Zhang et al., 2013). Suppression of HIPV emission by herbivores is known to occur through various mechanisms, but the front line mechanism is reported to operate through inoculation of the oral secretion-inhabiting bacteria during feeding, a phenomenon that deceives the plant to incorrectly perceive and identify the attacking herbivore, and to not activate the appropriate signalling defence (Felton et al., 2014; Schausberger, 2018). Unfortunately, volatile suppression, in general, is not found to prevent natural enemies from locating herbivore-infested plants (Sarmiento et al., 2011; De-Lange et al., 2020), suggesting that the release rates of the specific attractive compounds or the ratios of the attractive compounds in the released HIPV blend are not necessarily affected.

Volatile compounds attractive to natural enemies include a subset of HIPV or OIPV compounds, from the same or different chemical classes (D'Alessandro and Turlings, 2006; McCormick et al., 2012). These are often mixtures of compounds in specific ratios (van Wijk et al., 2011), but sometimes these attractants are single compounds (Wei et al., 2008). For example, (R)-(+)-limonene released by the Mongolian oak, *Quercus mongolicus* Fisch. ex. Turcz. (Fagaceae) plants infested by the longhorned beetle, *Massicus raddei* (Blessig) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) elicited strong attraction in the predator *Dastarcus helophoroides* (Fairmaire) (Coleoptera: Bothrideridae) (Wei et al., 2008). The predatory mite *Phytoseiulus persimilis* Athias-Henriot (Acari: Phytoseiidae) was more attracted to the mixture of five compounds  $\beta$ -ocimene, (Z)-3-hexenyl acetate, (E)-4,8-dimethyl-1,3,7-nonatriene (DMNT), (E,E)-4,8,12-trimethyl-1,3,7,11-tridecatetraene (TMTT) and methyl salicylate than to the individual compounds or partial mixtures of these compounds identified from *Tetranychus urticae* Koch (Acari: Tetranychidae)-infested lima bean plants (van Wijk et al., 2011). The identification of attractant compounds from HIPVs and OIPVs is mostly specific to the tri-trophic system herbivore-plant-natural enemy and associated chemical interactions indicated in **Figure 1** (Mumm and Dicke, 2010; Kaplan, 2012b; McCormick et al., 2012).

## Herbivore Volatiles for Host or Prey Location

Natural enemies locate herbivores via their emitted kairomones (**Figure 2**) (Vet and Dicke, 1992; Afsheen et al., 2008). Volatile compounds emitted by herbivores are generally distinct from plant field background odours and constitute the most reliable sources of information for natural enemies (Vet and Dicke, 1992; Rodriguez-Saona and Stelinski, 2009). Herbivore pheromones are species-specific and usually serve as kairomones for location of suitable herbivore species by natural enemies (Aukema and Raffa, 2005). The egg parasitoid *Trichogramma chilonis* Ishii (Hymenoptera: Trichogrammatidae) is highly attracted to (Z)-11-hexadecenyl and (E)-12-tetradecenyl acetates which are, respectively, components of the sex pheromones of *Helicoverpa assulta* (Guenée) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) and *Ostrinia furnacalis* (Guenée) (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) (Boo and

Yang, 2000). Other natural enemy species are instead attracted to a blend of pheromone components, as seen in the predatory bug *Orius laevigatus* (Fieber) (Hemiptera: Anthrenidae), which was only attracted to a mixture of 1:2.3 (R)-lavandulyl acetate and neryl (S)-2-methylbutanoate, the major components of *Frankliniella occidentalis* (Pergande) (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) aggregation pheromone (Vaello et al., 2017).

Apart from pheromones, natural enemies eavesdrop on volatile compounds produced by herbivore by-products such as honeydew (Leroy et al., 2012; Watanabe et al., 2016), larval frass (Reddy et al., 2002; Wei et al., 2013), and glandular defensive secretions of larvae or adults (Kopf et al., 1997; Zverava and Rank, 2004). A single component, i.e., phenyl acetaldehyde identified from honeydew excreted by the aphid, *Aphis gossypii* Glover (Hemiptera: Aphididae), attracted the predator *Aphidoletes aphidimyza* (Rondani) (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae) (Watanabe et al., 2016). Reddy et al. (2002) reported that allyl isothiocyanate, a volatile component of larval frass from *P. xylostella*-infested cabbage plants, was highly attractive to *P. xylostella* natural enemies, specifically the predator *Chrysoperla carnea* (Stephens) (Neuroptera: Chrysopidae) and the parasitoids *C. plutella* and *T. chilonis*. Moreover, the syrphid fly predator *Parasyrphus nigritarsis* (Zetterstedt) (Diptera: Syrphidae) was highly attracted to salicyl aldehyde, the main component of the larval secretion of the prey leaf beetle, *Phratora vitellinae* (L.) (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) (Kopf et al., 1997).

## Herbivore Contact Kairomones for Host/Prey Recognition and Acceptance

Upon landing on a host plant, natural enemies have to select the target herbivore species and stages for oviposition or feeding (**Figure 2**) (Jaenike, 1978; Scheirs and De Bruyn, 2002; Gripenberg et al., 2010). This step of the foraging behaviour is crucial as it defines the survival of the forager and its offspring. Plants are usually infested by multiple herbivores, which makes it challenging for natural enemies to select the target species. Herbivore contact kairomones are often species-specific, and therefore natural enemies generally rely on these non-volatile signals, which are examined by antennating or probing for recognition of hosts or prey (Vinson, 1998; Bénédict et al., 2002). These cues originate from various sources such as adult/larva/nymph body surfaces, larvae oral secretions, egg coating, and wing scales (Afsheen et al., 2008; Kaiser et al., 2017). A typical example of this is *O*-caffeoylserine isolated from the body surface of *Phenacoccus herreni* Cox & Williams (Homoptera: Pseudococcidae) and which elicited strong drumming behaviour, thereby acting as a contact host-recognition kairomone in the parasitoids *Acerophagus coccois* Smith and *Aenasius vexans* Kerrich (both Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) (Calatayud et al., 2001). Moreover,  $\alpha$ -amylase from oral secretions of the host *Chilo partellus* (Swinhoe) (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) larvae mediates oviposition in the parasitoid *Cotesia flavipes* Cameron (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) (Bichang'a et al., 2018). Hydrocarbons extracted from herbivores are also involved in host acceptance by parasitoids, as seen in *Trissolcus basalis* Wollaston (Hymenoptera: Scelionidae) which uses non-adeane,

a cuticular hydrocarbon from body extract of its stink bug host, *Nezaria viridula* (L.) (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae), to discriminate between male and female (Colazza et al., 2007) (see Kaiser et al., 2017, for a recent review on parasitoids). Gomes-Lagôa et al. (2019) further reported the crucial role of hydrocarbons in the selection of preferred stink bug host species by their parasitoids. These authors found that the parasitoid *T. basalis* preferred the hydrocarbons from the footprint extract of its preferred host, *N. viridula*, to those of *Dichelops melacanthus* (Dallas) and *Euschistus heros* (Fab.) (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae), and the parasitoid *Telenomus podisi* Ashmead (Hymenoptera: Scelionidae) chose hydrocarbons of the footprint extract of its preferred host, *E. heros*, to those of the other two stink bug species. The selective responses of the parasitoids to hydrocarbons of their preferred hosts could be explained by differences in the composition of key hydrocarbons in the blend extract (Gomes-Lagôa et al., 2019) and by the co-evolutionary host-parasitoid interactions that have enabled parasitoids to easily recognise and eavesdrop on chemical stimuli of their suitable associated hosts (Peri et al., 2013).

Unlike in parasitoids, contact kairomones involved in prey recognition and acceptance by predatory insects have been explored in few species and little attention has been paid to the identification of the chemical cues involved. However, the predator *Cerceris fumipennis* Say (Hymenoptera: Crabronidae) was reported to exploit methyl-branch hydrocarbons from the cuticle of Buprestidae beetles to recognise prey from non-prey Chrysomelidae beetles (Rutledge et al., 2014). The author reported that washed buprestid prey that had been treated with their crude cuticular extract were accepted by the predator, whereas those treated with crude cuticular extract of non-prey beetles were rejected, suggesting that the predator uses cuticular hydrocarbons as contact kairomone to discriminate prey from non-prey.

## USE OF KAIROMONES IN BIOLOGICAL CONTROL STRATEGIES

Biological control is a pest management method where natural enemies are used to reduce populations and damages of pest organisms (Eilenberg et al., 2001). There are three main forms of biological control: classical, augmentation, and conservation (Bale et al., 2008). Classical biological control aims at introducing and releasing a co-evolved exotic natural enemy—generally a parasitoid—of an invasive herbivore into invaded areas for permanent long-term control of the invasive herbivore (Eilenberg et al., 2001; Bale et al., 2008). Augmentation biological control involves periodical releases of a natural enemy when environmental conditions tend to limit its survival, reproduction, and establishment (van Lenteren, 2000; Collier and van Steenwyk, 2004). On the other hand, conservation biological control requires no release, but habitat manipulation or improvement of control practises are implemented to provide resources to maintain and enhance survival, fitness, and reproductive success of natural enemies (Gurr et al., 2000; Zhu et al., 2014). Biological control is one of the most promising alternatives to synthetic chemical insecticides, which are widely

applied for the control of herbivores but unsustainable due to the development of herbivore resistance and associated with negative impacts on the environment and human health (Gay, 2012).

Cases of successful implementation of biological control have been documented (e.g., Beddington et al., 1978; Collier and van Steenwyk, 2004). The parasitoid *Aphytis melinus* DeBach (Hymenoptera: Aphelinidae) was used in an augmentation biological control and successfully controlled the red scale insect *Aonidiella aurantii* Maskell (Homoptera: Diaspididae) in citrus orchards (Moreno and Luck, 1992). However, many cases of failures in the biological control of insect pests have been observed (Lynch and Thomas, 2000; Collier and van Steenwyk, 2004). The main issues that cause failures include an insufficient population level of natural enemies in the target crop and the emigration or dispersal of natural enemies from cropping sites, limiting the control of insect pests in the target crops (Heimpel and Asplen, 2011). In this line, recent studies have highlighted the use of kairomone-based lures as a sound solution for limiting emigration of natural enemies and increasing their populations in target crops, in turn enhancing the efficacy of natural enemies for satisfactory control of insect pests (Kelly et al., 2014; Peri et al., 2018).

The effectiveness of kairomones in attracting natural enemies to enhance biological control of insect pests has been demonstrated in crop field conditions. The use of HIPVs/OIPVs in crop fields has generally led to a lower ratio of attracted natural enemies in kairomone-treated plots relative to control plots, than when pheromones are used (Tables 1, 2). Unlike HIPVs or OIPVs, pheromones are species-specific (Aukema and Raffa, 2005; Ruther, 2013), and in most cases they are generally distinct from plant background odours and therefore reliable indicators for natural enemies searching for herbivorous insects (Vet and Dicke, 1992; Rodriguez-Saona and Stelinski, 2009). Insects are likely to detect and react to blends of odourant compounds in nature (Thomas-Danguin et al., 2014; Conchou et al., 2019), but reported studies have mainly focused on field applications of single kairomonal compounds (Kaplan, 2012a; Tables 1, 2). The studies published in the last two decades documenting the use of HIPVs, OIPVs, and pheromones, whereby natural enemies have been reported to be more attracted to kairomone-baited plots compared to control plots are summarised in the following subsections.

## Field Applications of Herbivore-Induced Plant Volatiles

The use of HIPVs and OIPVs as kairomones for the recruitment of natural enemies against insect pests in crop fields has been reported (e.g., Kaplan, 2012a; Peñaflor and Bento, 2013). Applications of methyl salicylate (MeSA) through dispensers in cranberry and soybean fields attracted more natural enemies and resulted in increased predation and parasitism rates, associated with a reduced number of herbivores on plants (e.g., Mallinger et al., 2011; Rodriguez-Saona et al., 2011). A pioneer review has addressed the role of (Z)-3-hexenol in attracting natural enemies into herbivore-infested field plants (*Arabidopsis thaliana*, *Nicotiana* spp., and *Phaseolus* spp.) (Wei et al., 2011). A typical example was reported in a study conducted by Kessler and Baldwin (2001), where

**TABLE 1 |** Summary of some synthetic herbivore-induced plant volatiles applied in fields to attract natural enemies.

Kairomone	Natural enemy	Type, order <sup>a</sup> , and family of natural enemy	Host/prey species inducing release of the compound	Field crop species	Amount of kairomone	Ratio <sup>b</sup> of natural enemies caught between treated plot and control	Is the crop yield improved in the treated plot relative to control?	References <sup>c</sup>
Methyl salicylate	<i>Chrysopa nigricornis</i>	Predator (Neu.: Chrysopidae)	Not specified	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	2 mL of neat compound	6	nd	James, 2003a
					5 g of neat compound	2	nd	James and Price, 2004
	<i>Geocoris pallens</i>	Predator (Hem.: Geocoridae)	Not specified	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	1 mL of neat compound	7	nd	James, 2003b
	<i>Orius tristicolor</i>	Predator (Hem.: Anthocoridae)	Not specified	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	5 g of neat compound	7	nd	James and Price, 2004
	<i>Chrysopa oculata</i>	Predator (Neu.: Chrysopidae)	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i>	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	1 mL of neat compound	6	nd	James, 2006
	<i>Stethorus punctum picipes</i>	Predator (Col.: Coccinellidae)	Not specified	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	5 g of neat compound	57	nd	James and Price, 2004
					1 mL of 1.5 µL/mL	2	nd	Maeda et al., 2015
	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	Predator (Col.: Coccinellidae)	<i>Aphis glycines</i>	<i>Glycine max</i>	100 mg of neat compound	3	nd	Zhu and Park, 2005
	Predatory beetles and parasitoids <sup>d</sup>	–	Not specified	<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	120 mg of neat compound	2	Improved	Wang et al., 2011
	<i>Toxomerus</i> sp. & <i>Orius insidiosus</i>	Predators (Dip: Syrphidae) & (Hem.: Anthocoridae)	Not specified	<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>	3 mL of neat compound	7 & 2	Not improved	Salamanca et al., 2018
Mixture of Methyl salicylate, (Z)-3-hexenol and (Z)-3-hexenyl acetate	<i>Stethorus punctum picipes</i>	Predator (Col.: Coccinellidae)	Not specified	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	1 mL of 1.5 µL/mL each (1:1:1 ratio)	2	nd	Maeda et al., 2015
	(Z)-3-hexenyl acetate							
	<i>Orius tristicolor</i>	Predator (Hem.: Anthocoridae)	Not specified	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	1 mL of neat compound	5	nd	James, 2003b
2-Phenylethanol	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	Predator (Col.: Coccinellidae)	Not specified	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	1 mL of 10 mg/mL	9	nd	Yu et al., 2008
	<i>Orius similis</i>	Predator (Hem.: Anthocoridae)	Not specified	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	1 mL of 10 mg/mL	4	nd	Yu et al., 2008
	<i>Anaphes iole</i>	Parasitoid (Hym.: Mymaridae)	<i>Lygus lineolaris</i>	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	2 mL of neat compound	3 <sup>++</sup>	nd	Williams et al., 2008
	<i>Chrysoperla carnea</i>	Predator (Neu.: Chrysopidae)	<i>Aphis glycines</i>	<i>Glycine max</i>	100 mg of neat compound	5	nd	Zhu and Park, 2005
	<i>Eupeodes volucris</i> or <i>Eupeodes fumipennis</i>	Predators (Dip: Syrphidae)	Not specified	Apple trees	1 mL of neat compound	8	nd	Jones et al., 2016

(Continued)



TABLE 1 | Continued

Kairomone	Natural enemy	Type, order <sup>a</sup> , and family of natural enemy	Host/prey species inducing release of the compound	Field crop species	Amount of kairomone	Ratio <sup>b</sup> of natural enemies caught between treated plot and control	Is the crop yield improved in the treated plot relative to control?	References <sup>c</sup>
(E,E)- $\alpha$ -Farnesene	<i>Anaphes iole</i>	Parasitoid (Hym.: Mymaridae)	<i>Lygus lineolaris</i>	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	2 mL of neat compound	4 <sup>++</sup>	nd	Williams et al., 2008
	<i>Tetrastichus asparagi</i> & <i>Paralipse infernalis</i>	Parasitoids (Hym.: Eulophidae)	<i>Crioceris asparagi</i>	<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>	0.75 mL of neat compound	2	nd	Ingrao et al., 2019
cis- $\alpha$ -Bergamotene	<i>Geocoris punctipes</i>	Predator (Hem.: Lygaeidae)	<i>Manduca sexta</i>	<i>Nicotiana attenuata</i>	40 $\mu$ L of 0.1 nmol	4 <sup>++</sup>	nd	Halitschke et al., 2008
Octanal	<i>Deraeocoris punctulatus</i>	Predator (Hem.: Miridae)	Not specified	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	1 mL of 10 mg/mL	8	nd	Yu et al., 2008
Nonanal	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	Predator (Col.: Coccinellidae)	Not specified	<i>Sophora japonica</i>	150 $\mu$ L of 10 or 100 mg/mL	8 & 15	nd	Xiu et al., 2019a
3,7-Dimethyl-1,3,6-octatriene	<i>Orius similis</i>	Predator (Hem.: Anthoridae)	Not specified	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	1 mL of 10 mg/mL	3	nd	Yu et al., 2008
Isopropanol	<i>Chrysopa quadripunctata</i>	Predator (Neu.: Chrysopidae)	<i>Cotinis nitida</i>	<i>Malus domestica</i>	125 mL of 45% dilution	100*	nd	Pszczolkowski and Johnson, 2011
Squalene	<i>Chrysopa nigricornis</i>	Predator (Neu.: Chrysopidae)	Not specified	Apple trees	2 mL of neat compound	5	nd	Jones et al., 2011
Iridodial	<i>Chrysopa nigricornis</i>	Predator (Neu.: Chrysopidae)	Not specified	Apple trees	4 mg of neat compound	3	nd	Jones et al., 2011
Mixture of methyl salicylate and Iridodial	<i>Chrysopa oculata</i> & <i>C. nigricornis</i>	Predators (Neu.: Chrysopidae)	Not specified	Apple trees	2 mL: 4 mg ratio of neat compound	100* & 10	nd	Jones et al., 2011
Benzaldehyde	<i>Chrysoperla plorabunda</i>	Predator (Neu.: Chrysopidae)	Not specified	Apple trees	0.5 mL of neat compound	80	nd	Jones et al., 2011
Mixture of phenylacetone nitrile, 2-phenylethanol and acetic acid	<i>Chrysoperla plorabunda</i>	Predator (Neu.: Chrysopidae)	<i>Pandemis pyrusana</i>	Apple trees	100 mg: 100 mg: 3 mL amounts of neat compounds	100*	nd	El-Sayed et al., 2018
Dimethyl disulfide	<i>Aleochara bilineata</i> & <i>A. bipustulata</i>	Predators (Col.: Staphilinidae)	<i>Delia radicum</i>	<i>Brassica oleracea</i>	500 $\mu$ L neat compound: paraffin oil (1:250 ratio)	6 & 2	Not improved	Ferry et al., 2009
Indole	<i>Propylaea japonica</i>	Predator (Col.: Coccinillidae)	Not specified	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	1 mL of 10 mg/mL	3	nd	Yu et al., 2017
Linalool	<i>Propylaea japonica</i>	Predator (Col.: Coccinillidae)	Not specified	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	1 mL of 10 mg/mL	4	nd	Yu et al., 2017
$\alpha$ -Pinene	<i>Chrysoperla sinica</i>	Predator (Neu.: Chrysopidae)	Not specified	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	1 mL of 10 mg/mL	4	nd	Yu et al., 2017
	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	Predator (Col.: Coccinellidae)	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	150 $\mu$ L of 10 or 100 mg/mL	19 & 53	nd	Xiu et al., 2019b

(Continued)

TABLE 1 | Continued

Kairomone	Natural enemy	Type, order <sup>a</sup> , and family of natural enemy	Host/prey species inducing release of the compound	Field crop species	Amount of kairomone	Ratio <sup>b</sup> of natural enemies caught between treated plot and control	Is the crop yield improved in the treated plot relative to control?	References <sup>c</sup>
(E)-4,8-dimethyl-1,3,7-nonatriene (DMNT)	<i>Oomyzus gallerucae</i>	Parasitoid (Hym.: Eulophidae)	<i>Xanthogaleruca luteola</i>	<i>Ulmus minor</i>	10 $\mu$ L of 10 ng/ $\mu$ L	3	nd	Büchel et al., 2011
3-Methylbutylaldehyde	<i>Glyptapanteles liparidis</i>	Parasitoid (Hym.: Braconidae)	<i>Lymantria dispar</i>	<i>Populus nigra</i>	10 $\mu$ L of 10 $\mu$ g/ $\mu$ L	9	nd	McCormick et al., 2014
m-Cymene <sup>1</sup> or 4'-Ethyl-acetophenone <sup>2</sup>	<i>Peristenus spretus</i>	Parasitoid (Hym.: Braconidae)	<i>Apolygus lucorum</i>	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	300 $\mu$ L of 10 or 100 mg/ $\mu$ L	<sup>1</sup> (7 & 3)++ or <sup>2</sup> (4 & 6)++	nd	Xiu et al., 2019c
Ocimene	<i>Tetrastichus asparagi</i> & <i>Paralipsa internalis</i>	Parasitoids (Hym.: Eulophidae)	<i>Croceris asparagi</i>	<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>	500 $\mu$ L of neat compound	2	nd	Ingrao et al., 2019

<sup>a</sup>Orders abbreviated as Dip., Diptera; Hem., Hemiptera; Col., Coleoptera; Neu., Neuroptera; Hym., Hymenoptera; <sup>b</sup>Ratio as directly reported in the studies or expressed from the length of plots or graphs displaying the number of insects caught. <sup>c</sup>We included only studies conducted within nearby the two last decades and in which the number of the attracted natural enemy was reported to be significantly greater in kairomone-baited plots than in control plots, and where the attracted natural enemy has been identified to species level. <sup>d</sup>The predator species are *C. septempunctata*, *H. axyridis* and *Propylaea japonica*, and the parasitoids are *Aphidius avenae* and *Aphidius gifuensis*; \*nearly zero insects caught in the control plots; ++ = egg predation or parasitism was measured; nd, not determined.

plots of natural population of *Nicotiana attenuata* Torrey ex S. Watson (Solanaceae) plants with (Z)-3-hexenol applied in lanolin paste resulted in an 8-fold increase in eggs and larvae mortality thanks to the attractiveness of the predator *Geocoris pallens* Stål (Heteroptera: Geocoridae), which preyed on a high number of eggs and larvae of *Manduca quinquemaculata* (Haworth) (Lepidoptera: Sphingidae), *Dicyphus minimus* Uhler (Heteroptera: Miridae), and *Epitrix hirtipennis* (Melsheimer) (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae). **Table 1** provides some additional examples of field-based applications of herbivore-induced plant volatiles that resulted in significant increase in the number of attracted natural enemies in semiochemical-field plots compared to control plots.

## Use of Pheromones as Field Attractants for Natural Enemies

The application of pheromones in agricultural crop fields to enhance host location behaviour by natural enemies for the control of insect pests has been the focus of great attention (Aukema and Raffa, 2005; Pfammatter et al., 2015). Pheromones (e.g., sex, aggregation, marking, alarm-pheromones) are environmentally safe for use in crop protection. Aggregation pheromones in bark beetle species are diversified, composed of mono or pluri-chemical compounds (ipsenol, ipsdienol, cis-verbenol, trans-verbenol, frontalin, exo-brevicomin, endo-brevicomin, etc.) (Symonds and Gitau-Clarke, 2016), some of which have shown kairomonal activity in attracting predators in crop fields. For example, high numbers of the predators *Thanasimus dubius* (Fabricius) (Coleoptera: Cleridae) and *Platysoma cylindrica* (Paykull) (Coleoptera: Histeridae) were attracted to 50%-ipsdienol-baited traps in red pine, *Pinus resinosa* Ait. (Pinaceae), plantations (Aukema and Raffa, 2005). Although many studies have focused on the role of herbivore pheromones in field recruitment of natural enemies, sex or aggregation pheromones of natural enemies can also be used as field attractants to manipulate the behaviour of conspecifics (Wu et al., 2019), thereby increasing the natural enemy population level which could indirectly be beneficial for the control of insect pests. **Table 2** presents some additional studies on the use of pheromones as field attractants for natural enemies. However, some insect pheromone components appeared to be plant volatile compounds (Tittiger and Blomquist, 2016). Such compounds were not considered in this analysis as they likely exert the same attraction effect as applied HIPVs/OIPVs under field conditions. For example, like HIPVs or OIPVs (**Table 1**), field application of the aphid-alarm pheromone (E)- $\beta$ -farnesene, also known to be a plant compound, generally led to 2- to 3-fold more catches of aphid natural enemies in pheromone-treated plots relative to untreated plots (Vosteen et al., 2016, and reference therein).

## AVENUE OF RESEARCH FOR IMPROVING KAIROMONE EFFICIENCIES AND THEIR ASSESSMENT IN BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Applications of synthetic kairomone-based lures in biological control of insect pests continue to gain attention in the field

**TABLE 2 |** Summary of some pheromones applied in the field to attract natural enemies.

Kairomone	Natural enemy	Type, order <sup>a</sup> , and family of natural enemy	Host/prey species releasing the compound	Field crop species	Compound and its composition (amount)	Type of pheromone (sex of the emitter)	Ratio <sup>b</sup> of insects caught between treated plot and control	Is the crop yield improved in the treated plot relative to control?	References <sup>c</sup>
Methyl (2E,4Z)-decadienoate	<i>Gymnoclytia occidentalis</i>	Parasitoid (Dip.: Tachinidae)	<i>Euschistus conspersus</i>	Apple trees	200 µL of neat compound	Aggregation (male)	19	nd	Krupke and Brunner, 2003
(2E,5R,6E,8E)-5,7-dimethyl-2,6,8-decatrien-4-one	<i>Hemerobius stigmaterus</i>	Predator (Neu.: Hemerobiidae)	<i>Matsucoccus josephi</i>	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	50 µg of neat compound	Sex (female)	100*	nd	Mendel et al., 2004
	<i>Elatophilus hebraicus</i>	Predator (Het.: Anthocoridae)	<i>Matsucoccus josephi</i>	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	220 µg of neat compound	Sex (female)	100*	nd	Mendel et al., 2004
(2E, 4E)-4,6,10,12- Tetramethyl-2,4-tridecadien-7-one	<i>Hemerobius stigma</i>	Predator (Neu.: Hemerobiidae)	<i>Matsucoccus matsumurae</i>	<i>Pinus</i> spp.	600 µg of neat compound	Sex (female)	100*	nd	Mendel et al., 2004; Branco et al., 2006
(3S,7R,8E, 10E)-3,7,9-trimethyl-8,10-dodecadien-6-one	<i>Elatophilus nigricornis</i>	Predator (Het.: Anthocoridae)	<i>Matsucoccus feytaudi</i>	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	220 µg of neat compound	Sex (female)	100*	nd	Mendel et al., 2004
	<i>Elatophilus crassicornis</i>	Predator (Het.: Anthocoridae)	<i>Matsucoccus feytaudi</i>	<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	220 µg of neat compound	Sex (female)	100*	nd	Branco et al., 2006
(R)-(C)-Y-decalactone	<i>Elater ferrugineus</i>	Predator (Col.: Elateridae)	<i>Osmoderma eremita</i>	<i>Quercus robur</i>	400 µL of neat compound	Sex (male)	20	nd	Svensson et al., 2004
(6Z,9Z,11S,12S)-11,12-Epoxyhenicosa-6,9-diene	<i>Telenomus euproctidis</i>	Parasitoid (Hym.: Scelionidae)	<i>Orgyia postica</i>	<i>Hibiscus</i> spp.	200 µL of 2.5 µg/µL	Sex (female)	44	nd	Arakaki et al., 2011
Mixture of <i>trans</i> -Verbenol and Exo-brevicommin	<i>Thanasimus dubius</i>	Predator (Col.: Cleridae)	<i>Dendroctonus ponderosae</i>	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	150 mg of neat compound	Aggregation (male)	47	nd	Pfammatter et al., 2015
Cyclolavandulyl butyrate	<i>Anagyrus subalbipes</i>	Parasitoid (Hym.: Encyrtidae)	<i>Planococcus kraunhia</i>	Persimmon and apple	10 µL of 0.16 µg/µL	Sex (-)	nd+	nd	Sugawara and Ueno, 2020
α-Terpineol**	<i>Podisus maculiventris</i>	Predator (Het.: Pentatomidae)	Self	<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>	Not quantified	Aggregation (male)	nd+	nd	Aldrich and Cantelo, 1999
Blend of (E)-2-octenal and (E)-2,7-octadienal	<i>Orius sauteri</i>	Predator (Het.: Anthocoridae)	Self	grasses	1 mg of neat compound each (1:1 ratio)	Sex (female)	4	nd	Uehara et al., 2019
Blend of (E)-2-Hexenal, Benzyl alcohol, (E)-2-Hexen-1-ol and Benzaldehyde	<i>Arma chinensis</i>	Predator (Hem.: Pentatomidae)	Self	Poplar trees	130 µL of neat compound in 5:5:2:1 ratio	Aggregation (male)	100*	nd	Wu et al., 2019

<sup>a</sup> Orders abbreviated as Dip., Diptera; Hem., Hemiptera; Col., Coleoptera; Neu., Neuroptera; Hym., Hymenoptera; <sup>b</sup> Ratio as directly reported in the studies or expressed from the length of plots displaying the number of insects caught.

<sup>c</sup> we included only studies conducted within nearby the two last decades and in which the number of the attracted natural enemy was reported to be significantly greater in pheromone-baited plots than in control plots, and where the attracted natural enemy has been identified to species level. \*nearly zero insects caught in the control plots; \*\*live insects producing the pheromone were used in the experiments; nd, not determined; nd+, not determined because there were no control plots in the experiments; self, the natural enemy itself is the pheromone emitter.

of chemical ecology (Kaplan, 2012a; Kelly et al., 2014; Murali-Baskaran et al., 2018; Peri et al., 2018; Blassioli-Moraes et al., 2019; Peñaflor, 2019). Several questions will have to be addressed in future research to improve kairomone use and thereby to efficiently benefit biological control (Kaplan, 2012b; Gish et al., 2015). Here, we present some strategies and discuss gaps for consideration when designing a kairomone-oriented control strategy for the protection of field crops. This is particularly important because many previous applications of synthetic kairomones have not considered the direct benefits for plants, especially the reduction in pest populations and crop damage, and the increase in crop yields (Hiltpold and Turlings, 2012; Kaplan, 2012a; **Tables 1, 2** of this review). It is therefore opportune to examine how kairomones have been implemented in the field and assess possible options to optimise their use.

## An Optimised Attract and Reward Technique

The attract and reward technique consists of the combined use of an attractant—usually a kairomone—and a reward component such as flowering companion plants (Simpson et al., 2011). The technique has gained considerable attention since it promotes early establishment of natural enemies in crop fields and reduces their subsequent emigration from these cropping sites (Simpson et al., 2011; Parolin et al., 2012). The attract component stimulates the foraging behaviour and maintenance of natural enemies in target crops, whereas the reward component offers alternative foods such as nectar and pollen which supplement the diet of natural enemies. Consumption of nectar, which is source of carbohydrates, has proved to increase the longevity and fecundity of natural enemies (Araj and Wratten, 2015, and references therein). Apart from supplying extra-floral nectars and pollen, the reward component can also offer additional benefits such as shelter and supply of alternative hosts and prey to natural enemies.

The attract and reward combination significantly increases natural enemy populations in crop fields over the application of either of these components alone (Simpson et al., 2011; Salamanca et al., 2018). The combination of MeSA as attractant and buckwheat *Fagopyrum esculentum* Möench (Polygonaceae) as reward plant boosted the abundance of Scelionidae wasps on broccoli plants, and that of Eulophidae wasps on sweetcorn plants (Simpson et al., 2011). Salamanca et al. (2018) reported that the combination of MeSA and coriander plants also led to an increased abundance of the predatory thrips *Frankliniopsis vespiformis* (Crawford) (Thysanoptera: Aeolothripidae), predatory bugs *Orius insidiosus* (Say) (Hemiptera: Anthracoridae), and hoverflies, *Toxomerus* sp. (Diptera: Syrphidae), on bean plants, but no increase was found in the abundance of earwigs *Doru* sp. (Dermaptera: Forficulidae). However, the spatial arrangement of the attract and reward components influences the abundance of natural enemies and the control level of insect pests. For example, an increased abundance of the predator *Propylea japonica* (Thunberg) (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) and a decreased population of the aphid *Aphis citricola* van der Goot (Hemiptera: Aphididae) were noted when

MeSA was placed inside and *Calendula officinalis* L. (Asteraceae) reward was placed at the edge of apple tree orchards compared to the opposite arrangement (reward inside and MeSA at the edge) and the control (no MeSA, no reward) (Jaworski et al., 2019). The efficacy of the spatial arrangement supports the design of the push-pull technique which promotes intercropping of companion plants, one placed inside the crop field for repelling herbivores, i.e., “push,” and another placed at the edge of the crop field for attracting them, i.e., “pull” (Cook et al., 2007; Khan et al., 2010). Although the push-pull itself increases the abundance of natural enemies compared to mono-cropping (Khan et al., 2008; Leslie et al., 2020), the combination of push-pull with the deployment of synthetic kairomone attractive to natural enemies could further increase the natural enemy population to a level required to reduce the insect pest density and crop damage to below economic threshold levels, which could be assessed in future studies.

Apart from increasing the abundance of natural enemies, the combination of attract and reward has a long-lasting effect, whereby more natural enemies can be sustained over time in a crop field with reward than those without reward. Simpson et al. (2011) used MeSA as attractant and buckwheat as reward and recorded an increase in populations of parasitoids; e.g., *Dolichogenidae tasmanica* (Cameron), *Micropiltis demolitor* Wilkinson (both Hymenoptera: Braconidae), *Trichogramma pretiosum* Riley (Hymenoptera: Trichogrammatidae), *Diadegma semiclausum* (Hellen) (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae), and predators of Tachinidae family in crop fields with the reward compared to those without reward, especially as time elapsed. Jaworski et al. (2019) also recorded more predator *P. japonica* persisting in apple tree orchards bearing MeSA and the reward, *C. officinalis* plant, which resulted in long-term control of the pest *A. citricola* compared to control orchards.

Successful implementation of the attract and reward technique has some limitations, e.g., attraction of non-target organisms. Herbivores and hyper-parasitoids/predators can also be attracted into crop fields because most field-tested HIPVs are commonly emitted volatiles with broad-scale attraction effects, and the reward plants can also serve as habitat for herbivores (Simpson et al., 2011; Orre-Gordon et al., 2013; Sarkar et al., 2018). Methyl salicylate is a common plant volatile compound used to attract natural enemies. However, it was found to be attractive to untargeted insect species such as herbivorous insect pests (e.g., *P. rapae*, *P. xylostella*, *Scaptomyza flava*) and hyper-parasitoids (e.g., *Baryscapus galactopus* (Ratzeburg) (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae), *Anacharis zealandica* Ashmead (Hymenoptera: Figitidae), and *Diplazon laetatorius* Fab. (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae) (Orre-Gordon et al., 2013). Buckwheat is a rewarding plant that is commonly used in an attract and reward technique. However, it was also reported to harbour herbivorous thrips such as *Thrips tabaci* Lindeman (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) and aphids (Orre-Gordon et al., 2013; Sarkar et al., 2018). Despite such unwanted effects, the attract and reward combination could potentially enhance conservation biological control through the recruitment of natural enemies and their retention into the vicinity of target crops (Orre-Gordon et al., 2013; Peñaflor and Bento, 2013). Ways to improve its



implementation and overcome such negative impacts could include the selection of HIPVs that are attractive to a narrow range of natural enemies but not to their hosts or prey (Ferry et al., 2009), the use of natural enemy pheromone as the attractant (Ruther, 2013), reward plants which are non-hosts to the target insect pest(s) (Sarkar et al., 2018), an appropriate spatial arrangement of the attractant and reward (Jaworski et al., 2019), and the introduction of a herbivore-repellent component into the system (Cook et al., 2007; Xu et al., 2017a; Pålsson, 2019). Future studies are needed to investigate the integration of these tactics for an improved attract and reward technique to enhance biological control in agro-ecosystems.

## Incorporating Olfactory Associative Learning to Improve the Efficiency of Foraging Behaviour by Natural Enemies

Olfactory associative learning is a training process that involves conditioning an insect to learn and recognise to associate a particular odour with the presence of a reward (Arthur, 1971; Turlings et al., 1993). This process tends to modify the insect's innate host preference (Weiss, 1997), which is established during larval development (Hopkins, 1917; Barron, 2001) or shortly after adult emergence (Jaenike, 1983; Barron, 2001). It is likely that insect foragers learn and use odour stimuli that increase their chances of finding suitable hosts (Jaenike, 1983; Vet et al., 1995; Scheirs and De Bruyn, 2002). In conditioned insects, olfactory associative learning develops their ability to exhibit a strong response upon perception of the learned odour (Vet and Papaj, 1992; Faber et al., 1999). Therefore, odour learning has emerged as a strategy to enhance foraging success and to consequently minimise interference of environmental background odours (Vet and Papaj, 1992; Arenas et al., 2007).

The use of olfactory associative learning in natural enemies to improve biological control has recently been a focus of great interest, especially by training or conditioning them on kairomones during the mass rearing process before their release in fields [reviewed in Giunti et al. (2015), Kruidhof et al. (2019)]. Exposure of parasitoid *Hyssopus pallidus* (Askew) (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) larvae to the apple fruit extract odour led to an adult preference for apple fruit extract, whereas unexposed individuals did not show any preference (Gandolf et al., 2003). Unlike naïve individuals of the predator *Anthocoris nemoralis* (Fab.) (Hemiptera: Anthocoridae), individuals that had experience on MeSA-treated prey showed a pronounced preference for the volatile (Drukker et al., 2000). Interestingly, Meiners et al. (2003) showed that parasitoids that had learned to recognise a mixture of compounds could also respond to the individual blend compounds.

The efficiency of olfactory associative learning has also been reported for improving host location behaviour by natural enemies in crop fields. Females of the parasitoids *C. glomerata* and *D. semiclausum* with previous experience on HIPVs from Brassicaceae plants infested by *P. brassicae* and *P. xylostella* successfully oriented towards host-infested plants even in the presence of surrounding non-host and alternative host plant vegetation, whereas unexperienced parasitoids failed

to preferentially locate the host-infested plants (Tibor et al., 2007; Kruidhof et al., 2015). Moreover, Hare et al. (1997) reported that the parasitoid *A. melinus* previously trained on *O*-caffeoyltyrosine during rearing achieved greater egg parasitisation on field populations of *A. aurantii* than naïve parasitoids. Similarly, the predators *Cycloneda sanguinea* (L.) (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae), *Ceraeochrysa cubana* (Hagen) (Neuroptera: Chrysopidae), and *Podisus nigrispinus* (Dallas) (Heteroptera: Pentatomidae) trained on mint oil, a commercial volatile blend predominantly consisting of menthol, menthone, (+)-menthyl acetate, menthofuran, isomenthone, limonene, and 1,8-cineole, consumed more eggs of *Thyrintea leucoceraea* (Rindge) (Lepidoptera: Geometridae) and *Diatraea saccharalis* (Fab.) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) in field plots bearing the mint oil than in control plots (Janssen et al., 2014).

Although olfactory associative learning enhances host finding success by natural enemies, it remains unknown how long the learned odour could persist in the insect's memory. Natural enemy species differ in their intrinsic capacity to conserve information over time (short-term, mid-term, and long-term memories) (Vet and Dicke, 1992; Hoedjes et al., 2011; Mery, 2013). Moreover, it is worth considering to what extent acquired information could be conserved under natural conditions, knowing that environmental variation has been reported as one of the major factors underlying variation in learning and memory retention (Mery, 2013; Smid and Vet, 2016). Future studies should therefore be focused on investigating how to fine-tune odour learning in natural enemies for long-term memory consolidation to the benefit of their foraging success. However, periodic releases of natural enemies trained on kairomones during rearing could provide an efficient control of insect pests in crop fields (Hare et al., 1997; Giunti et al., 2015; Kruidhof et al., 2019).

## Applying Volatile Kairomones Based on Field Background Odour of Target Crop

Plant field background odour is one factor that could mask the relevance of kairomone-based lures to natural enemies in agricultural fields (Schröder and Hilker, 2008; Cai et al., 2017; Xu et al., 2017b). Some HIPVs and OIPVs are common in the volatile profiles of host plants, but they are often released in different ratios between plant species. Plants therefore have different potentials for shaping the attraction of natural enemies to field applied synthetic HIPVs/OIPVs. Braasch et al. (2012) evaluated the effects of target crop species on parasitoid attraction to MeSA and found that more hymenopteran parasitoids were attracted to MeSA-baited traps in field soybean plants than in corn plants. Similarly, when (*E*)- $\beta$ -farnesene and (*E*)- $\beta$ -caryophyllene were deployed in beet, bean, and wheat crops, predatory hoverflies of the Syrphidae family were significantly attracted to (*E*)- $\beta$ -caryophyllene-baited traps only in beet crops, and to (*E*)- $\beta$ -farnesene-baited traps only in bean crops compared to unbaited controls (Heuskin et al., 2012).

Field HIPV-based lures are usually applied in crops which also release the HIPV of interest, and this may increase interference with the successful location of lures by natural enemies. Flint

et al. (1979) found that the attraction of the green predatory lacewing, *C. carnea*, to synthetic caryophyllene applied on cotton plants reduced as the plants grew and released the compound, and detection of the lure thereby waned. Caryophyllene was, however, not attractive to *C. carnea* in wheat plants (Dean and Satasook, 1983) for which it is one of the most abundant volatile compounds (Jiménez-Martínez et al., 2004). In such cases, the use of concentrations beyond that of the target HIPV in the plant field background odour or in specific blends could help pinpoint the relevant concentration or blend composition that would best attract natural enemies to kairomone-based lures (Szendrei and Rodriguez-Saona, 2010; Xu et al., 2017b). Field application of a synthetic volatile blend composed of ocimene, limonene, (Z)-3-hexenol, and (Z)-3-hexenyl acetate attracted tea leafhoppers in autumn when the tea field background odour contained very low quantity of these compounds, yet the blend was unattractive to the insects in summer when the individual compounds were present in much higher concentrations in the background odour (Xu et al., 2017b).

An alternative strategy for reducing this interplay between the kairomone-based lure and volatile emission by the target field crops could be to use an attractant HIPV in crop fields where it is not released or only released in very low quantity to enhance the detection of the lure within the crop background odour. Field traps baited with phenylacetaldehyde attracted 10–100-fold more predator *C. carnea* than unbaited traps when deployed in cherry and peach orchards (Tóth et al., 2006). Interestingly, the volatile profiles of cherry and peach plants contain minor amounts or no phenylacetaldehyde (Najar-Rodriguez et al., 2013; Bandeira-Reidel et al., 2017; Ye et al., 2017; Maatallah et al., 2020). Therefore, unlike caryophyllene, it is likely that the predator *C. carnea* would be attracted to phenylacetaldehyde on cotton and wheat plants of which the headspace volatiles lack this compound (Thompson et al., 1971; Rodriguez-Saona et al., 2001; Jiménez-Martínez et al., 2004; Starr et al., 2015). Two synthetic blends which differed in their benzaldehyde and ethyl benzoate content attracted tea leafhoppers in the laboratory, but the results differed when they were deployed in tea field plantations. The blend that contained ethyl benzoate that was absent in the tea field background odour attracted more tea leafhoppers in field experiments compared to a paraffin oil control solvent (Cai et al., 2017). The blend that contained benzaldehyde, a compound which dominated the tea background odour, was no longer attractive to tea leafhoppers in crop fields (Cai et al., 2017).

## Standardising Kairomone-Based Field Implementation Design to Be Able to Draw Generic Conclusions

Kairomones have been validated for the recruitment of natural enemies in crop fields across diverse agro-ecosystems (James and Price, 2004; Tóth et al., 2009; Jones et al., 2016; Cai et al., 2017; Peñaflores, 2019). However, the approaches used in these studies varied, and this may lead to some discrepancies. Although abiotic factors are hardly standardised across landscapes (Almekinders et al., 1995), a number of biotic factors and kairomone implementation practises could be made uniform in studies to

strengthen the conclusions drawn from the findings of spatial and temporal studies. There is a need to improve how kairomones have been applied and assessed regarding their effectiveness with the aim of enhancing biological control strategies.

Firstly, there is a need to optimise the concentrations, compositions, and release rates of kairomones under field conditions. Since natural enemies display concentration-dependent responses in nature (James, 2006; Ferry et al., 2007; Kaplan, 2012a), conclusions drawn from studies considering only one concentration of the test kairomone are to be interpreted with caution. Field studies have demonstrated that population levels of attracted natural enemies differed according to the kairomone concentrations (Tables 1, 2). Therefore, it is crucial to test a range of concentrations to better assess the effectiveness of kairomone-based lures and their possible optimisation for field application. Using MeSA-baited yellow sticky cards in vineyards, James (2006) recorded more than 2-fold increase in green predatory lacewing *Chrysopa oculata* Say (Neuroptera: Chrysopidae) populations in plots baited with 99% MeSA compared to plots baited with 10 and 1% MeSA, while both of the latter did not differ from the control. Similarly, field application of different dimethyl disulfide concentrations (0.1, 1, 10, and 100% v/v dimethyl sulphide/paraffin oil) revealed that a 10% dilution caught the highest number of predators, *Aleochara bipustulata* (L.) and *Aleochara bilineata* Gyllenhal (both Coleoptera: Staphilinidae). Whereas more predatory carabid beetles were caught with a 1% concentration compared with a 100% concentration and the control (Ferry et al., 2007). It is also important that future studies focus on the use of odourant mixtures as field attractants for the recruitment of natural enemies. In a simulated model, Chan et al. (2018) showed that odourant mixtures elicit faster olfactory processing responses in insects (e.g., honeybees) and are more reliable for insect olfaction than single odourants. Insects are likely to exploit blend of odourants when foraging in nature (Thomas-Danguin et al., 2014; Conchou et al., 2019). Jones et al. (2011) reported high numbers of the predators *C. nigricornis* and *C. oculata* in apple orchard plots with traps baited with the blend of MeSA and iridodial compared to plots with traps baited with either compound alone. The release rate of kairomone-based lures should also be taken into consideration, as it can provide insight on their diffusion and the frequency of lure replacement during the study period. The solvent used to formulate the lure, the dispenser used to deliver it, and some abiotic factors (e.g., temperature and relative humidity) affect the release rate of kairomone and consequently its long-lasting effect and effectiveness in attracting natural enemies in crop fields (Jones et al., 2011; Heuskin et al., 2012; Kaplan, 2012a; Xu et al., 2017b). James (2006) used a 99% MeSA lure replaced at weekly intervals over a 5-week period and observed that the number of captured *C. oculata* was 5–8-fold higher in MeSA-treated plots than in the controls during the first 3 weeks, but then the captures declined to a low level in the final 2 weeks. Likewise, more predatory ladybeetle and hoverfly adults were recorded on wheat plants when the applied pheromone (*E*)- $\beta$ -farnesene-based lure was formulated in paraffin oil compared with an alginate bead-based formulation (Xu et al., 2017b). The observed difference was

explained by the effect of the experimental conditions whereby the diffusion of (*E*)- $\beta$ -farnesene from alginate beads was limited by the high relative humidity that prevailed, as reported by Heuskin et al. (2012).

Secondly, there is need for an implementation design that enables a uniform distribution of the attracted natural enemies within the semiochemical-treated field. Studies investigating the effects of semiochemical-based lures have been implemented in diverse crop fields, but little attention has been paid to the distribution of natural enemies within the target field, which is nevertheless a key factor with regard to herbivorous insect pest control (Rodriguez-Saona et al., 2011; Braasch and Kaplan, 2012; Lim and Mainali, 2013; Vidal and Murphy, 2018). A simulated model conducted by Kaplan and Lewis (2014) revealed that the size of the kairomone field had a marked effect on the number and distribution of attracted predators, with more predators attracted to small fields compared to large fields, and with abundance of attracted predators within the target field decreasing with increasing distance from the field edge. In these scenarios, the core of the target field becomes an enemy-free space, and therefore an unprotected zone where herbivore outbreaks could occur. Apart from the field size, the density of kairomone-release points and the distance over which the formulated lure can be effective also affect also the distribution of attracted natural enemies for successful control of insect pests. By tracking the abundance of natural enemies over a gradient of distances from the HIPV lure-releasing point, 90d Predalure (AgBio Inc. Westminstewr, CO, USA), a commercially available MeSA lure, was reported to be active over a small spatial scale of 1.5 to 2.5 m (i.e., increased abundance only in a localised area surrounding the emission source) in soybean and cranberries crop fields (Mallinger et al., 2011; Rodriguez-Saona et al., 2011). A 40d Predalure was active over a broad spatial scale of 8–10 m (i.e., increased abundance both at the immediate emission source as well as in neighbouring areas) in tomato crop fields (Kelly et al., 2014). Similarly, phenylethyl alcohol and an induced maize volatile blend were also active at a broad spatial scale of 8–10 m in soybean and maize crop fields (Ockroy et al., 2001; Braasch and Kaplan, 2012). The bioactive attraction range of a formulated kairomone could generate insight on the experimental field size and the adequate lure density (i.e., number of lure sources per unit area), both of which have a profound effect on the abundance of natural enemies and the insect pest control level. For example, over a transect distance of 36 m from pheromone releasing-points, Lim and Mainali (2013) recorded high abundance of the parasitoids *Ooencyrtus nezarae* Ishii (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) and *Gryon japonicum* (Ashmead) (Hymenoptera: Scelionidae) associated with a high parasitism rate up to 18 m in soybean fields baited with the pheromone [blend of (*E*)-2-hexenyl (*E*)-2-hexenoate and (*E*)-2-hexenyl (*Z*)-3-hexenoate] identified from the host, *Riptortus pedestris* (Fab.) (Hemiptera: Alydidae). Using MeSA in hop yards and vineyards, abundance of predators increased with less lure density (James and Price, 2004), but such relationship may depend on the attracted natural enemy species and family (Gadino et al., 2012). Under field conditions, the odour concentration decreases with increasing distance from its source (Beyaert and Hilker, 2014). Therefore, when designing

a kairomone-based lure field experiment, it is also important to create enough space between kairomone and kairomone-free zones to prevent interference of odours and emigration of natural enemies between both zones. Although there is no rule on how to define the space of such interzone (buffer zone), we suggest a minimum of 2-fold the distance over which the kairomone-based lure is bioactive. However, future studies are needed to be able to draw evidence-based recommendations.

Thirdly, when used to enhance conservation biological control strategies, a kairomone should not only show effectiveness in attracting natural enemies, but its application should also lead to reduction in pest populations and crop damage through increased parasitism and predation rates, and to an increase in crop yields (Kaplan, 2012a; Salamanca et al., 2018). This may require assessment of kairomone effectiveness shifting from simply looking at natural enemy catches to direct field observation when possible, or at least a combination of the two methods. The field application of synthetic HIPVs is known to prime HIPV production in neighbouring undamaged plants, hence triggering indirect defences against herbivores (Engelberth et al., 2004; von Mérey et al., 2011). James and Price (2004) reported that canopy shake samples from hop yards resulted in a 7- and 57-fold increase in *Orius tristicolor* (White) (Hemiptera: Anthocoridae) and *Stethorus punctum picipes* (Casey) (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae), respectively, in MeSA-baited compared to unbaited plots. Although it is widely acknowledged that kairomones increase the abundance of natural enemies in crop fields, it is debatable whether their increase leads to a reduction in crop damage by pests, and a subsequent increase in crop yields. In a 2-year study, Wang et al. (2011) recorded an increase in the abundance of predatory lady beetles (*C. septempunctata*, *H. axyridis*, and *P. japonica*) associated with a reduced density of the grain aphid, *Sitobion avenae* (Fab.) (Hemiptera: Aphididae), and increases in the parasitism rate and wheat yield in MeSA-baited wheat plots compared to unbaited plots. Although, Salamanca et al. (2018) reported an increased abundance of biocontrol agents (*Toxomerus* sp. and *O. insidiosus*) with a reduced spider mite damage to bean plants, the yield of beans was not improved by the application of MeSA compared to control plots. Application of MeSA also did not reduce pest populations or increase strawberry and grapevine yields (Lee, 2010; Simpson et al., 2011). We speculate that, in the latter studies, the population levels of the attracted natural enemies may not have been enough to cause a reduction of crop damage to under the economic threshold level, or the attracted natural enemies may not have been those of the primary insect pests of the target crops. The application of kairomone-based lures may sometimes lead to sex-biased recruitment of natural enemies, whereby one sex (male or female) predominantly responds to the lure, which affects the mating status and may influence natural enemy population dynamics in the target field (Jones et al., 2011; Kaplan, 2012a). One way of dealing with this would be to combine sex-specific attractants to target both sexes of natural enemies. Although the use of semiochemicals has evolved as a novel tool for environmentally friendly pest control, farmers who are the end-users continue to primarily rely on the use of chemical insecticides for crop protection. We suggest



that future studies investigate the effectiveness of applying semiochemical-based lures vs. use of chemical insecticides in terms of the reduction of herbivore populations and damage, the improvement of crop yield, and cost-benefit analysis. Above all, the use of semiochemical-based lures offers great potentials for reducing crop damage by pests and improving crop productivity, and the effectiveness of their application could be further improved by taking into account the different aspects discussed earlier in this section.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Over the last two decades, application of kairomones in crop fields has evolved as a novel approach to enhance biological control strategies through the attraction and retention of natural enemies on crops. To date, effective application measures and more effective lures are needed to increase kairomone implementation and boost its effectiveness under field conditions. The efficiency of kairomone-based lures under field conditions could be improved on the basis of the formulation, concentration, ratio, and release rate of the kairomone. Moreover, kairomone detection by natural enemies could be facilitated by taking into consideration the kairomone concentration and the crop field background odour. The control of insect pests by natural enemies could be further enhanced with the use of kairomone-based lures, the release of odour-based experienced natural enemies, and the combination of kairomone with reward plants set up in an appropriate spatial arrangement. Several field experiments have tested the use of single kairomonal compounds, and it is important that future studies assess the use of compound blends in recruiting natural enemies in crop fields. In addition to the attraction of natural enemies, future studies should be focused on evaluating the reduction of pest populations and crop damage when using kairomones compared to pesticide application, as well as the increase in crop yields, so as to be

able to address and take full advantage of kairomone-based field pest control.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

PA and ED conceptualised the structure of the review. PA wrote the first draft of the review manuscript. CP, AY, AC, SM, and ED contributed to the development of the review content. All authors provided intellectual inputs, proofread the manuscript, and approved the final version for submission.

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**Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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