Chemistry of the pheromones of mealybug and scale insects

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Covering: 1979 to 2014

This article comprehensively reviews the syntheses of all known sex pheromones of scales and mealybugs, describes how they were identified, and how the synthetic pheromones are used in insect management.

1 Introduction

Mealybugs and scales (Order Hemiptera, Superfamily Coccoidea) comprise a group of small herbivorous insects with sucking mouthparts that colonize a wide variety of plants. Heavy infestations may result in direct plant damage and yield losses. Equal or greater indirect damage may be caused by the proliferation of sooty molds and other fungi on the insects’ honeydew excretions. More recently, their importance as major agricultural pests has substantially increased due to their role as vectors of plant pathogens, particularly leafroll viruses. Furthermore, quarantine restrictions may prohibit importation of potentially infested agricultural commodities, particularly fruits, unless they have undergone expensive disinfestation treatments. The systematics, biology, and economic importance of identified scales and mealybugs are comprehensively summarized on the Scale Net website (http://www.sel.barc.usda.gov/scalenet/scalenet.htm), and methods for their management, including the use of pheromone-based techniques, have been recently reviewed.\textsuperscript{1}

Most mealybugs and scales reproduce sexually, with the sedentary, wingless females producing powerful sex pheromones to attract the fragile and ephemeral males for mating. These pheromones have several interesting characteristics. First, they possess extraordinary biological activity, with lures baited with a few micrograms of pheromone remaining attractive for periods of at least several months under field conditions. Second, the structures of many of the pheromones are chemically interesting, usually consisting of irregular terpenoids, some of which possess unique terpenoid skeletons. These unique structures, coupled with the tiny amounts in which they are produced, have presented challenges for both their identification and their synthesis. Third, unlike most other insects, in which related species usually create unique pheromone signals by using different ratios or subsets of shared compounds, scales and mealybugs appear to create unique pheromone channels by producing species-specific structures.

Several reviews of scale and mealybug pheromone chemistry and applications have been published, but all are outdated, and/or are focused on a subset of species.\textsuperscript{2–5} Thus, this review will summarize the literature on the identification and synthesis of all known scale and mealybug pheromones, and conclude with a short summary of practical applications and commercialization of the pheromones.
2 Methods for isolation and identification of scale and mealybug pheromones

Adult female scales and mealybugs can live for periods of several months, during which time they will continue to produce pheromone at the rate of a few ng per day until they are mated. Once mated, pheromone production is greatly reduced or ceases altogether, and so a key to identifying their pheromones is to produce large cohorts of virgin females which will release pheromone for weeks at a time. Thus, large colonies of the insects are established on factitious hosts such as potato sprouts or squash fruit, specifically chosen because they will last for a number of weeks without rotting. Cohorts of virgin females are then created in one of two ways. First, the developing males can be manually removed, often helped by the fact that they move off the host fruit to pupate. The second, and more efficient and convenient method, takes advantage of the fact that the males undergo a complete metamorphosis to the adult stage whereas the females do not. Thus, males are much more sensitive to insect growth regulating hormones (IGRs) than females, and treatment of mixed sex cohorts of immatures with a discriminating dose of an IGR by spraying or dipping infested host materials into an IGR solution, will selectively kill the males, leaving large cohorts of virgin females on the host. The female-infested material is then placed in glass chambers swept continuously with clean air, with the headspace volatiles collected on an adsorbent such as Porapak Q or activated charcoal, changed at daily to weekly intervals. The trapped volatiles are recovered by elution with solvents such as pentane or methylene chloride. Comparison of the profiles of volatiles, and that from collections from uninfested host material usually allows the insect-produced compounds to be singled out for identification. Alternatively, analysis of the extracts by gas chromatography coupled with electroantennogram detection, using antennae of males as living detectors, allows the unequivocal location of pheromone compounds in the extracts.

As with other insect pheromones that are usually present in only microgram amounts in even composite extracts, most identifications of scale and mealybug pheromones have used spectroscopic methods, particularly mass spectrometry, in combination with microscale chemical tests to determine the presence or absence of specific functional groups. Some of these tests have included catalytic hydrogenation to determine the numbers of rings and C—C double bonds, ozonolysis to determine number and positions of double bonds, base hydrolysis (sometimes followed by reesterification) to confirm presence of esters, and carbon skeleton determination by high-temperature reduction of all functional groups (for full descriptions of these and other microchemical tests applied to semiochemical identification, see ref. 9). Further fragments of information about the structures have been garnered from high resolution mass spectrometry to obtain molecular formulae, and from use of retention indices to estimate molecular size and the possible presence of polar functional groups. For some of the more complex or unusual structures, identification by microscale NMR was unavoidable, sometimes requiring several years of insect rearing to collect enough material to obtain spectra. In fact, reviewing some of the clever methods that have been used to isolate and identify microgram amounts of these volatile pheromones makes an interesting read.

3 Overview of scale and mealybug pheromones

To date, sex pheromones of 24 scale and mealybug species have been identified, from the families Diaspididae (7 species), Margorodidae (3 species), and Pseudococcidae (1 sp. in the subfamily Phenacoccinae, 13 spp. in the subfamily Pseudococcinae). For diaspidid and pseudococcid pheromones, all known examples are terpenoid derivatives, with many of them constituting esters of irregular, non-head-to-tail
terpene alcohols. They can be grouped into 4 structural categories: acyclic mono- or sesquiterpene alcohols, alcohols with a cyclopropane ring (chrysanthemol), mono- or sesquiterpenes with a cyclobutane ring, and monoterpenes alcohols with a cyclopentane ring. The acid portion of these esters is variable, consisting of simple straight-chain acids such as acetic, propanoic, and butanoic acids, through to chiral acids such as 2-methylbutanoic and 2-acetoxy-3-methylbutanoic acids, and unsaturated acids such as seneioic and 3-methyl-3-butenoid acids. Exceptions include the hemiterpenol ester pheromone of the Matsumoto mealybug, and the degraded terpenoid ketone pheromone of Aulacaspis murrayae, which nevertheless contains the non-head-to-tail, 1–2 linkage of two isoprene units that characterizes many of the acyclic pheromones. In contrast, the pheromones of margorodid scales are clearly of polyketide origin. In the descriptions of the identifications and syntheses, the pheromones are grouped by structural classes rather than by taxonomic relatedness, to highlight the structural similarities.

3.1 Acyclic pheromones

3.1.1 Ester of a hemiterpenol: Matsumoto mealybug pheromone. The sex pheromone of the Matsumoto mealybug, Crisicoccus matsumotoi (Siraiva), was identified by Tabata and coworkers as 3-methyl-3-butenyl 5-methylhexanoate. This is the first and to date only report of a hemiterpene-based pheromone structure from a scale or mealybug. In addition, the 5-methylhexanoic acid moiety is rare in insect pheromones. The pheromone was prepared by esterification of the alcohol with the acid using a dehydrative ester condensation catalyst, dimesitylammonium pentfluorobenzenesulfonate.

3.1.2 Esters of geraniol and nerol isomers: San Jose scale pheromone. Female San Jose scale were found to produce three closely related compounds 2, 3, and 4, as pheromone components, in a ratio of 48.5:46.7:4.8 (Fig. 1). Male scales were attracted to any one of the three compounds, and the compounds did not seem to act synergistically. The first synthesis was designed so that all three compounds could be made from a shared intermediate 9 (Scheme 1A). Thus, orthoester Claisen rearrangement of the enolate 6 from 2-methyl-2-propen-1-ol gave ester 7, which was reduced and converted to the bromide. Copper-catalyzed regioselective addition of the corresponding Grignard reagent 10 to 3-butyn-1-yl propanoate gave the pheromone 2. Alternatively, the Grignard reagent was added in the same fashion to TMS-protected 3-butyn-1-ol, followed by deprotection and esterification (not shown). Anderson subsequently developed a one-step procedure to the core alcohol structure by alkylation of the dianion of 3-methyl-3-buten-1-ol with 1-bromo-3-methyl-3-butene (Scheme 1B).

Weiler and coworkers (Scheme 2) alkylated the dianion of methyl acetoacetate with 1-bromo-3-methyl-3-butene, then converted the resulting β-ketoester to the enolate to protect the ketone from reduction, and reduced the ester to an alcohol, with concomitant hydrolysis of the enolate during the workup to give 18. Esterification followed by conversion of the ketone to a methylene completed the synthesis of 2.

Fig. 1 The three components of San Jose scale pheromone.

Scheme 1 Two syntheses of 2, the most abundant component of the San Jose scale pheromone. Reagents and conditions: (a) EtCOOH, (EtO)₂CH, reflux, 68%; (b) LiAlH₄, THF, 90%; (c) Ph₃PBr₂, pyridine, CH₂CN, 70%; (d) Mg, ether; (e) CuBr, Me₂S, –45–20 °C, 42%. (f) 2 BuLi, TMEDA, hexane, 0–20 °C, ~40%.
Lombardo and Weedon attempted a photochemical deconjugation of ethyl 3,7-dimethyl-2,7-octadienoate, but the desired product was obtained only in low yield in a mixture of byproducts; the synthesis was not useful and is mentioned only for completeness.16 Veselovskii and coworkers also developed a low-yielding synthesis but there was insufficient detail given to determine whether the resulting product was pure or a mixture of isomers.17

The 2nd and 3rd pheromone components are \((E)\)- and \((Z)\)-isomers. Anderson and coworkers prepared the \((Z)\)-isomer by regio- and stereoselective addition of Grignard reagent 10 to 1-propyne 19, and reaction of the resulting vinyl cuprate intermediate 20 with CO2 esterification with diazomethane, reduction of the ester 22, and acylation (Scheme 3A).13 The \((E)\)-isomer was prepared by analogous copper-catalyzed reaction of 4-methyl-4-pentenyllithium 24 with methyl 2-butynoate 25, reduction of the ester 26, and acylation (Scheme 3B).13

In another synthesis of the two isomers using synthons with preset stereochemistry, Moiseenkov and coworkers alkylated 1-iodo-3-methyl-3-butene with an allylic \((E)\)-hydroxysulfone or a related \((Z)\)-hydroxysulfonamide, but because the preparation of these two synthons was not described, the overall utility of the syntheses is not clear.18 A related scheme formed the carbon skeleton by sequential alkylation of bis(arylsulphonyl)methane with \((E-Z)\)-4-chloro-3-methyl-2-buten-1-ol and ethyl 2-methyl-prop-2-en-1-yl carbonate but suffered from low overall yield and incomplete control of the alkene stereochemistry.19 A 12-step synthesis of a mixture of the two isomers starting from methyl 4-oxopentanoate is mentioned only for completeness.20

In contrast, Weiler’s group prepared the \((E)\)- and \((Z)\)-isomers by stereoselective formation of the \((E)\)- and \((Z)\)-enolates of \(\beta\)-ketoester (the intermediate from the synthesis of the 1st pheromone component), trapping the enolates with diethylchlorophosphate,
followed by alkylation with dimethyl lithium cuprate with no loss of stereochemical integrity (Scheme 4).\textsuperscript{15} Thus, treatment of the ketoester 16 with NaH in THF gave, after trapping with diethyl chlorophosphate, the (Z)-enol phosphate 27, and reaction with MeMgCl with copper catalysis gave the trisubstituted alkene 22 as a 98E/2Z mixture. Choice of the reaction conditions and Grignard reagent counterion were critical to the maintenance of high stereochemical integrity. In contrast, formation of the enolate with Et₃N in HMPA, trapping as the (E)-enol phosphate 29, and alkylation gave the Z-isomer 26 (98Z/2E). The syntheses were completed by reduction of the terminal esters 22 and 26 and acylation of the resulting alcohols 23 and 28.

Rather than trying to make the trisubstituted alkenes stereoselectively, Novak \textit{et al.} used readily available geraniol 30 or its acetate 31 or propanoate esters 32 as starting materials (Scheme 5).\textsuperscript{34} Thus, regioselective chlorination with tert-butyl hypochlorite with migration of the double bond produced the corresponding allylic chlorides 33–35 with a terminal methylene, with no loss of the stereochemical integrity of the other double bond. Alcohol 33 and acetate 34 were reduced with LiAlH₄, followed by esterification with propanol chloride, whereas the chloride 35 from geranyl propanoate was reduced directly to the final products with NaBH₄ and NaI in DMF. The same series of reactions using nerol as starting material produced the (Z)-alkene analogs. Minor variations involving different methods of removing the allylic leaving group were later published.\textsuperscript{32}

### 3.1.3 Esters of lavandulol and related compounds.

The vine mealybug pheromone (S)-36, the minor component of the pink hibiscus mealybug pheromone (2R,2’S)-37, and both components of the banana mealybug pheromone ((R)-38 and (R)-39) are all esters of lavandulol. The alcohol portion of the Japanese mealybug pheromone 40 and passionvine mealybug pheromone 41 are regioisomers of lavandulol. The Comstock mealybug pheromone (R)-42 is also discussed with this group because of its obvious structural similarities to other pheromones, and its likely genesis from lavandulol (Fig. 2). Chiral lavandulol can be prepared by a 3-step synthesis using Evans’ chiral auxiliary,\textsuperscript{21,22} or by enzymatic kinetic resolution of commercially available, racemic lavandulol.\textsuperscript{25,26} The esters then are readily prepared by standard methods (acid chloride or anhydride and a base).

**Vine mealybug pheromone.** The sex pheromone of the vine mealybug, \textit{Planococcus ficus}, was identified from mass spectrometry and microchemical tests as (S)-(+)lavandulyl senecioate 36.\textsuperscript{37} Racemic lavandulyl senecioate proved to be as attractive to male mealybugs as the insect produced (S)-enantiomer, indicating no inhibition by the unnatural enantiomer. Lavandulol also was identified as a minor component in extracts from virgin females, but it was not attractive alone, and inhibited attraction at higher doses.\textsuperscript{24} In Israeli populations, Zada and coworkers found another compound in headspace volatiles, (S)-(+)lavandulyl isovalerate.\textsuperscript{28} As in California, males were only attracted to the same major component 36. During esterification of lavandulol with senecioyl chloride, choice of base was important; use of Et₃N resulted in extensive deconjugation of the senecioate, whereas pyridine yielded the desired ester cleanly.\textsuperscript{27}

**Pink hibiscus mealybug pheromone minor component.** The sex pheromone of the pink hibiscus mealybug, \textit{Maconellicoccus hirsutus} (Green), was identified by Zhang and coworkers as a 1 : 5 mixture of (R)-lavandulyl (S)-2-methylbutanoate 37 and

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**Scheme 5** Synthesis of one of the minor components of San Jose scale pheromone from geraniol or geranyl esters. Reagents and conditions: (a) t-BuOCl, silica gel, hexane, 0–20 °C, 61–78%; (b) for alcohol and acetate, LiAlH₄, THF, then EtCOCl, Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂, ∼52–56%; (c) for propanoate ester, NaBH₄, NaI, DMF, 58%.

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**Fig. 2** Esters of lavandulol and related compounds.
(R)-2,2-dimethyl-3-(1-methylethylidene)cyclobutylmethyl (S)-2-methylbutanoate (1R)-maconellyl (S)-2-methylbutanoate (see Fig. 6, compound 257). The alcohol portion of the minor component 37 is the enantiomer of the alcohol moiety of vine mealybug pheromone 36; it was prepared by a known synthesis. The chirality–bioactivity relationship of 36 is discussed below with the description of the major component 257.

**Banana mealybug pheromone.** The sex pheromone of the banana mealybug, *Dysmicoccus^*^*grasiss*^* (Leonardi), was identified by de Alfonso and coworkers as (R)–(-)-lavandulyl propionate 38 and acetate 39 in a 6:1 ratio. The major component 38 was more active than the minor component 39, and the two components acted additively rather than synergistically. The unnatural (S)-enantiomers were neither attractive nor inhibitory. The compounds were synthesized by kinetic resolution of racemic lavandulol, followed by esterification with the appropriate acid chloride or anhydride.

**Japanese mealybug pheromone.** The sex pheromone of the Japanese mealybug, *Planococcus kraunhiae* (Kuwana), was identified by Sugie and coworkers as 2-isopropyliden-5-methyl-4-hexen-1-yl butyrate (fujikonyl butyrate) 40. The alcohol portion, fujikonol, is a regioisomer of lavandulol, and the pheromone was generated in 4 steps from racemic lavandulol 43 by oxidation to aldehyde 44, acid catalyzed isomerization to the conjugated aldehyde 45, reduction, and esterification (Scheme 6).

**Passionvine mealybug pheromone.** The sex pheromone of the passion vine mealybug, *Planococcus minor* (Maskell), was identified by Ho and coworkers as (E)-2-isopropyl-5-methyl-2,4-hexadienyl acetate 41. To confirm the gross structure and determine the stereochemistry, a nonstereoselective synthesis based on Wittig reaction of a semi-stabilized allylic ylide was used to produce both isomers, which could only be separated on milligram scale by HPLC. The (E)-isomer attracted male mealybugs in laboratory bioassays, whereas the (Z)-isomer was antagonistic. Because this route was not suitable for production of the pheromone for practical use, Millar developed a short, stereoselective synthesis of 41 (Scheme 7) by recognizing that the substitution pattern of the trisubstituted alkene 51 was ideally set up for copper-catalyzed, regio- and stereoselective anti-addition of an isopropyl Grignard reagent to propargylic alcohol 49. The stereoselectivity was proposed to result from formation of cyclic intermediate 50. In the event, addition of isopropylmagnesium bromide to enynol 49 gave dienol 51 with >99% (E)-selectivity. Acetylation completed the 3-step synthesis.

**Comstock mealybug pheromone.** The Comstock mealybug pheromone was the first such compound identified from a Pseudococcidae species, and so in what follows, we have described the identification in some detail to give the reader a sense of the methods that were available at that time. The pheromone was identified independently and virtually simultaneously by two groups. The first team, led by Barbara Bierleinhardt, used the insect growth regulator method to generate cohorts of virgin females, collecting ~30 mg of pheromone over 2–3 years (~5 million female-day-equivalents). The pheromone was identified primarily by mass spectral interpretation and microchemical tests, including hydrolysis and reacetylation to prove it was an acetate ester, catalytic reduction to determine that there were 2 C==C double bonds, ozonolysis to determine their positions, carbon skeleton determination by high temperature reduction to remove all functional groups, determination that the alcohol was a secondary alcohol by use of retention indices, and silylation of the alcohol portion followed by mass spectrometry to determine the position of the secondary alcohol.

The racemic pheromone was readily synthesized (Scheme 8), with the key step being the rearrangement of epoxide 55 to the secondary allylic alcohol 56. Derivatization with Mosher’s acid chloride gave two diastereomeric esters which were separable by GC, and corresponding derivatization of the alcohol from the natural pheromone gave one peak, verifying that the insect produced only one enantiomer, but it was not yet possible to determine which enantiomer it was, although the natural pheromone was shown to have a positive optical rotation. Fortunately, the racemic material was as attractive to males as the purified natural compound or as virgin females, which also suggested that the pheromone was a single component.

The parallel identification effort of Negishi et al. generated cohorts of virgin females by physical removal of males. The pheromone structure was narrowed down to 6 possibilities by mass spectral interpretation and microchemical tests, followed by NMR of 6–7 µg of pheromone isolated from 600 000 females. The correct structure was determined by a two-step synthesis, albeit in low yield (Scheme 9A). Thus, slow addition of a mixture of methacrolein 57 and 3-methyl-3-butenyl bromide 58...
to Li metal in THF at room temp gave an 11.4% yield of the alcohol precursor of the pheromone. In a subsequent improvement, reaction of 2-methylpropenyllithium with 2-(methylethenyl)oxirane proceeded in much better (60%) yield (Scheme 9B). The first chiral syntheses of the pheromone enantiomers were accomplished with Sharpless asymmetric epoxidation of an appropriate trisubstituted olefin alcohol, followed by rearrangement and opening of the two enantiomeric epoxides to produce the desired secondary allylic alcohol enantiomers in ~90% ee (Scheme 10). The alcohol precursor was produced in three steps from β-methallyl 2-pyridyl sulfide.

The (R)-enantiomer of 42 had a positive optical rotation, and was much more active in bioassays, indicating that the natural pheromone was (R). Another synthesis of the (R)-enantiomer was accomplished by kinetic resolution of the alcohol precursor to the pheromone (generated in 5 steps) by selective asymmetric epoxidation of the (S)-alcohol, leaving the (R)-enantiomer unchanged (not shown).

Larchevèque and Petit devised a shorter and more efficient synthesis of either enantiomer, using chiral ethyl glycidates (readily prepared from the enantiomers of serine in three steps) as chiral synthons (Scheme 11). Thus, regioselective opening of the epoxide in (R)-66 with diisobutenyllithium cuprate

**Scheme 9**  Racemic syntheses of the Comstock mealybug pheromone 42. Reagents and conditions: (a) Li, THF, room temp, 11.4%; (b) Ac₂O, pyridine, 77%; (c) THF, 60%; (d) AcCl, pyridine, ether, 77%.

**Scheme 10**  Mori and Ueda’s chiral synthesis of the Comstock mealybug pheromone. Reagents and conditions: (a) BuLi, THF, −70 °C-room temp, 85%; (b) m-CPBA, CH₂Cl₂, −30–10 °C, quant.; (c) Et₂NH, MeOH, 46%; (d) t-BuOOH, Ti(PrO)₄, diethyl (D)-tartrate, CH₂Cl₂, −23 °C; aq. tartartic acid, 59%; (e) TosCl, pyridine; NaI, acetone, reflux, 82%; (f) Zn, AcOH, 0 °C-room temp, 79%; (g) Ac₂O, pyridine, 80%.

**Scheme 11**  Larchevèque and Petit’s synthesis of one enantiomer of the Comstock mealybug pheromone from ethyl (R)-glycidate. Reagents and conditions: (a) Ether, −60 °C, 90%; (b) MEMCl, diisopropylethylamine, CH₃CN, 85%; (c) Meli, TMEDA, ether/pentane, −100 °C, 80%; (d) Ph₃PCH₂Br, BuLi, ether, 50%; (e) pyridinium p-toluenesulfonate, EtOH, reflux, 88%; (f) Ac₂O, pyridine, 90%.
gave the chiral hydroxyester 68. MEM protection of the alcohol followed by low temperature reaction of 69 with MeLi gave ketone 70. Straightforward Wittig olefination, removal of the protecting group, and acetylation completed the synthesis. Use of the TBDMS protecting group instead of MEM resulted in lower yields.

Several relatively short and efficient syntheses of the racemate were subsequently developed. For example, base-catalyzed tandem Michael addition/cyclization of methyl chloroacetate 72 and methyl acrylate 73 followed by equilibration of the crude product in MeOH/MeONa gave a 66% yield of the trans-diester cyclopropane 74 (Scheme 12A). Treatment of the diester with MeLi gave the crystalline diol 75 almost quantitatively, reaction of which with AcOH/Ac2O gave the racemic pheromone 42 (74%, ~50% overall). Alternatively, condensation of 3-methyl-3-buten-2-one 76 and methacrolein 57, acetylation, and removal of the ketone with concomitant migration of a double bond provided another short route to racemic 42 in ~50% yield (Scheme 12B).

A third synthesis produced alcohol 56 from reaction of 1-methylethenylmagnesium bromide with 4-methyl-3-pentenal (generated from acrolein in 3 steps), for an overall 30% yield (not shown). A fourth carried out a 4-step sequence in one pot, with 45% isolated yield (Scheme 12C). The critical feature was the transmetalation of the initial lithium anion with CeCl₃ to produce the cerium complex 80 in order to direct attack of the least substituted carbon towards the carbonyl of methacrolein 57, giving alcohol 56 in 54% yield.

Other, less efficient approaches that have been explored include the photooxidation of 2,6-dimethyl-2,5-heptadiene and a rather long 9-step route centered on a sila-Cope rearrangement.

3.1.4 Esters of sesquiterpenols, and solanone, a degraded sesquiterpenoid. The core structures of the sex pheromones of three diaspidid species, California red scale, yellow scale, and white peach scale are based on sesquiterpenols with the unusual 1–2 linkage between the first two isoprene units that characterizes the lavandulol-based structures described above,
and then with a third isoprene unit attached in normal fashion.

The structures of the yellow scale and white peach scale pheromones contain the entire sesquiterpenoid skeleton, whereas the two components of the red scale pheromone have been truncated by one carbon. The pheromone of *Aulacaspis myr-rayae* is also discussed with this group because it was likely derived from degradation of a sesquiterpenoid (Fig. 3).

**Yellow scale pheromone.** The basic structure of the yellow scale pheromone \(81\) was identified via a combination of mass and \(^1\)H NMR spectral data, and the results of microchemical tests (catalytic hydrogenation, LiAlH\(_4\) reduction and reacetylation, ozonolysis), but there was insufficient data to determine the absolute configuration or the stereochemistry of the double bond. Thus, the first nonstereoselective synthesis by Anderson and Henrick was designed to provide both the \((Z)\)- and \((E)\)-isomers (Scheme 13). Monoprotection of 3-methyl-1,5-pentanediol \(86\), pyridinium chlorochromate oxidation, and reaction of the resulting aldehyde \(88\) with the anion from diethyl 1-ethoxycarbonyl-2-methylpropylphosphonate \(89\) gave trisubstituted alkene \(90\) as a 4:1 mixture of \((Z)\) and \((E)\)-isomers. Reduction of the ester, acetylation of the resulting allylic alcohol \(91\), and alkylation of \(92\) with disobutenyllithium cuprate

![Scheme 13](image)

**Scheme 13**  First nonstereoselective synthesis of yellow scale pheromone. Reagents and conditions: (a) BuLi, THF, MEMCl, 47%; (b) PCC, NaOAc, CH\(_2\)Cl\(_2\), 82%; (c) NaH, THF, 58%, 4:1 \((Z-E)\); (d) DIBAL, benzene, 90%; (e) Ac\(_2\)O, pyridine, quantitative; (f) disobutenyllithium cuprate, ether, –25 °C, 60%; (g) Cl\(_3\)COOH, EtOH/H\(_2\)O, 70 °C; (h) Ac\(_2\)O, pyridine, 65% over 2 steps; (i) preparative GC.

![Scheme 14](image)

**Scheme 14**  Three syntheses of yellow scale pheromone by Mori’s group. Reagents and conditions: (a) Mg, ether, 34%; (b) ethyl orthoacetate, H\(^+\), 135 °C, 63%. (c) Mg, THF, 30%; (d) KH, 18- crown-6, THF, then ICH\(_2\)SnBu\(_3\), then –78 °C, BuLi, 44%. (e) (PhSe)\(_2\), H\(_2\)O\(_2\), CH\(_2\)Cl\(_2\), then t-BuOOH, 83%; (f) O\(_2\), MeOH, –78 °C, then Me\(_2\)S, then MeOH, PTSA, 83%; (g) LiAlH\(_4\), ether, 87%; (h) NaH, DME, PhCH\(_2\)Br; (i) HClO\(_4\), THF/H\(_2\)O, ~quantitative. (j) NaH, MEMCl; (k) O\(_2\), MeOH, –78 °C, then Me\(_2\)S; (l) MeOH, PTSA, 40 °C, 36% over 6 steps; (m) CrO\(_3\)-2Py.
completed the carbon skeleton. After deprotection and acetylation, the resulting isomers were readily separable by preparative GC, with the (E)-isomer \( \text{81} \) matching the insect-produced compound.

Mori and coworkers developed three syntheses of the pheromone in rapid succession, with the first aimed at determining the double bond geometry,\(^{31} \) the second at developing a chiral synthesis producing one enantiomer,\(^{22} \) and the third at providing both enantiomers.\(^{24} \) These syntheses were long and low-yielding, have been previously reviewed in detail, and so they are only summarized here. In the first synthesis (Scheme 14A),\(^{24} \) reaction of the Grignard reagent prepared from 1-bromo-2-methyl-3-butenyl acid \( \text{95} \) with 2-(1-methylethyl)acrolein \( \text{96} \) followed by orthoester Claisen rearrangement gave ester \( \text{98} \) which was elaborated to the (Z)-isomer of \( \text{81} \) in 4 steps. The correct (E)-isomer \( \text{81} \) was generated from ester \( \text{98} \) in 11 steps, using a reaction sequence that included inversion of the double bond by the sequence of epoxidation, opening the epoxide with lithium diphenylphosphide, methylation of the allyldiphenylphosphine intermediate to form the phosphonium salt, and elimination of methylidiphenylphosphate oxide.

Mori’s second synthesis used enantiomerically pure (R)-citronellal, in turn generated from (R)-pulegone, as the source of chirality (Scheme 14B).\(^{25} \) Thus, aldehyde \( \text{99} \), generated in 10 steps from (R)-citronellal, was reacted with the Grignard reagent from 3-methyl-2-bromo-1-butene \( \text{100} \) (generated in 2 steps and 9% yield from 3-methyl-1-butene, and requiring spinning band distillation purification) to give chiral alcohol \( \text{97} \). Phosphorus oxychloride oxidation of the Grignard reagent with lithium to give \( \text{101} \) then induced a 2,3-Wittig rearrangement to yield (E)-alcohol \( \text{102} \) stereoselectively, which was elaborated to the (S)-enantiomer \( \text{81} \) in the same sequence of steps used in their previous synthesis.

The third synthesis produced both pheromone enantiomers from methyl (R)-citronellate \( \text{103} \) (Scheme 14C).\(^{26} \) Thus, regioselective Markovnikov addition of phenylselenenic acid (generated \( \text{in situ} \) from diphenylselenenide and \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \)) to the alkene, followed by oxidation of the alkylphenylselenide intermediate and elimination gave allylic alcohol \( \text{104} \). Ozonolysis and reductive quenching with dimethylsulfide, and protection of the aldehyde as the dimethylacetal, followed by reduction of the ester and protection of the resulting alcohol as the benzyl ether yielded a chiral synthon \( \text{105} \) with differentiated terminals. Deprotection of the dimethyl acetal and reaction of the aldehyde \( \text{(S)-106} \) with the Grignard reagent from vinyl bromide \( \text{100} \) provided the key intermediate required for the 2,3-Wittig rearrangement used in the previous synthesis to establish the (E)-trisubstituted double bond, and further elaboration to the final product. Alternatively, the primary alcohol of diol \( \text{107} \) was MEM protected, followed by ozonolysis, reduction of the resulting aldehyde \( \text{(S)-88} \) with \( \text{LiAlH}_4 \) to the alcohol, and protection as the benzyl ether, giving a second chiral synthon with differentiated ends. Removal of the MEM protecting group and oxidation gave the (R)-enantiomer of aldehyde \( \text{106} \), which was then carried through to (R)-\( \text{81} \) as described above.

A synthesis from Julia’s group controlled the stereochemistry of the trisubstituted double bond by stereoselective elimination of \( \text{AcOH} \) from a vicinal acetoxysulfone \( \text{114} \) (Scheme 15).\(^{24} \) Thus, (R)-3-methylvalerolactone \( \text{109} \), generated by desymmetrization of 3-methylpentanedioc acid dimethyl ester with pig liver esterase to give the (R)-half-ester, followed by selective reduction of the free acid with borane and acid-catalyzed closure of the lactone, was alkylated with the anion of sulfone \( \text{110} \) with attack at the carbonyl of the lactone, giving hydroxyketone \( \text{111} \). Protection of the alcohol, reduction of the ketone and acetylation gave vicinal acetoxysulfone \( \text{114} \), which stereoselectively eliminated \( \text{AcOH} \) when treated with powdered \( \text{NaOH} \) in ether to give the (E)-trisubstituted alkene \( \text{115} \) in 98% stereochemical purity. Reaction of the sulfone acetate \( \text{114} \) with isopropylmagnesium bromide with \( \text{FeCl}_3 \), catalysis unfortunately gave an ~1 : 1 mixture of the (E)-alkene \( \text{94} \) (with no loss of stereochemical purity) and the product from hydrogenolysis instead of alkylation. Deprotection and acetylation completed the synthesis of (S)-\( \text{81} \), with separation of the desired trisubstituted alkene from the disubstituted byproduct by flash chromatography on silica gel impregnated with silver nitrate.

Millar developed a short, convergent, and highly stereoselective synthesis \( \text{via} \) silylcupration of an acetylene (Scheme 16).\(^{25} \) Thus, regioselective addition of bis(phenylmethylsilyl) lithium cuprate to 3-methyl-1-butyne \( \text{116} \) and trapping of the intermediate vinyl cuprate \( \text{117} \) with prenyl bromide gave \( \text{118} \) in 77% yield. Replacement of the \( \text{R}_2\text{Si} \) group with iodine, and

Scheme 15  Julia’s synthesis of yellow scale pheromone. Reagents and conditions: (a) \( \text{BuLi, THF/TEMEDA, 62%} \); (b) TBDMSiCl, \( \text{Et}_3\text{N, DMAP, CH}_2\text{Cl}_2, 97%} \); (c) \( \text{NaBH}_4, \text{MeOH/H}_2\text{O, 92%} \); (d) \( \text{Ac}_2\text{O, Et}_3\text{N, DMAP, CH}_2\text{Cl}_2, 95%} \); (e) powdered \( \text{NaOH, ether, 94%} \); (f) i-Pr\( \text{MgCl, FeCl}_3, \text{ether, } -78\text{--20 °C, then TBAF-3H}_2\text{O, THF, 36%} \); (g) \( \text{Ac}_2\text{O, Et}_3\text{N, DMAP, CH}_2\text{Cl}_2, 96%} \).
reaction of the resulting unstable vinyl iodide 119 with 4-chloro-2-methylbutylzinc iodide with (Ph3P)4Pd catalysis, and conversion of the crude coupling product 120 to the acetate 81 completed the synthesis, with complete control of the alkene stereochemistry. Although the racemate was prepared, the synthesis could be readily modified to produce either

**Scheme 16** Millar’s synthesis of yellow scale pheromone. Reagents and conditions: (a) (PhMe2Si)2CuLi, THF, −78 °C, then prenyl bromide, 77%; (b) I2, MeCN, 51%; (c) 4-chloro-2-methylbutylzinc iodide, (Ph3P)4Pd, THF; (d) NaOAc, HMPA, 75 °C, 42% from the vinyl iodide 119.

**Scheme 17** Baudouy and Sancho’s synthesis of yellow scale pheromone. Reagents and conditions: (a) s-BuLi, THF, −78–0 °C, then CF3COOH and water, 66%; (b) pyridinium hydrochloride, CH2Cl2, 100%; (c) MeMgI, ether, −70 to −35 °C; (d) (COCl)2, DMSO, Et3N, CH2Cl2; (e) MePh3PBr, BuLi, THF, 20 °C-reflux; 90% from the aldehyde; (f) DIBAL, solvent not stated, quantitative; (g) (Ph3P)3RhCl, H2, benzene, quantitative; (h) Ac2O, Et3N, solvent not stated, 94%.

**Scheme 18** Synthesis of racemic yellow scale pheromone via [3,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement of a cyclic thiocarbonate. Reagents and conditions: (a) Me3SnCu-SMe2, THF, −78 °C, 87%; (b) DIBAL, pentane/toluene, −45 °C, 82%; (c) TBDMsOTf, pyridine, quantitative; (d) I2, ether, quantitative; (e) t-BuLi, ether, −78 °C; (f) LiHMDS, THF, 72% from stannane 128; (g) TBAF, THF, 97%; (h) (COCl)2, DMSO, CH2Cl2, −78 °C, then Et3N; (i) i-PrPh3PBr, BuLi, ether, 46–60% from alcohol 135; (j) Li, NH3 or LDBB, THF/HMPA; (k) Ac2O, DMAP, CH2Cl2, 60% over 2 steps.
The synthesis of the diene component of the red scale pheromone was realized through several strategies, each highlighting the use of different reagents and conditions. The first approach employed the Negishi synthesis of yellow scale pheromone, where each step was carefully chosen to ensure the stereoselectivity and reactivity of the target molecule (Scheme 19). This approach, developed by their group, provided the diene component in high stereochemical purity.

Another strategy involved the 1,2-addition of methylmagnesium iodide to the aldehyde (1078), followed by protection of the resulting alcohol and stereoselective conversion to vinyl stannane (121). This was achieved through Negishi’s catalyst and hydrogen, deprotection, and acetylation, giving the pheromone (124) in high stereochemical purity. The authors streamlined the route somewhat by substituting the (R)-enantiotomer of aldehyde 131 (generated in 4 steps by desymmetrization/ring opening of 3-methylglutaric anhydride with lipase PS and n-BuOH to give the (R)-half-ester in 86% ee, and functional group manipulations), altering the order of steps, and by allowing the alkoxide from reaction of a vinyl anion with allylic alcohol 132. Treatment with LiHMDS resulted in formation of the 8-membered thiocarbonate 133, which immediately underwent stereoselective [3,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement to give the 10-membered thiocarbonate ring structure 134 with exclusively (Z)-stereoselectivity. The high stereoselectivity was postulated to arise from the rearrangement proceeding via a less sterically congested chairlike transition state. The nascent prenyl side-chain was then constructed by deprotection of the allylic alcohol, oxidation to the aldehyde 136, and Wittig reaction with isopropenyltriphenylphosphorane. Reductive desulfurization by lithium in ammonia with a proton source, or lithium p,p’-dihalogenophenylide and HMPA gave the desired 1,4-diene 138 along with ~20–33% of the conjugated diene 139. Acetylation completed the synthesis, and the pheromone 81 was separated from the conjugated impurity 139 by medium pressure chromatography. In their third publication (not shown), the authors streamlined the route somewhat by substituting the (R)-enantiotomer of aldehyde 131 (generated in 4 steps by desymmetrization/ring opening of 3-methylglutaric anhydride with lipase PS and n-BuOH to give the (R)-half-ester in 86% ee, and functional group manipulations), altering the order of steps, and by allowing the alkoxide from reaction of a vinyl anion with allylic alcohol 132 to warm to 0 °C so that the thiocarbonate ring formed and spontaneously underwent the [3,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement.

Finally, Negishi and coworkers developed an efficient, convergent synthesis that exploited two synthetic methods developed by their group (Scheme 19). First, they used their ZACA reaction (zirconium-catalyzed asymmetric carboalumination of alkenes) to enantioselectively add a methyl group to silyl-protected 3-buten-1-ol 140. The product 141, obtained in...
72% ee, was readily upgraded to 98% ee by a lipase-catalyzed kinetic resolution. The resulting alcohol (R)-141 was then converted to an iodide, ready for coupling. To construct the key trisubstituted alkene, addition of BBr\textsubscript{3} across the triple bond of 3-methyl-1-butyne 116, Pd catalyzed replacement of the bromide on carbon 2 with prenylzinc bromide, and conversion of the resulting alkynyl boron dibromide to the vinyl iodide 119 proceeded with complete regio- and stereochemical control, in 77% yield. The first synthon was then lithiated and transmetalated with ZnBr\textsubscript{2} to give 142. Pd-catalyzed reaction between organozinc 142 and vinyl iodide 119 then provided the completed carbon skeleton in very high stereochemical purity.

Diene component of the California red scale pheromone. The first reported synthesis of the diene component 82 as a diastereomeric mixture used an AlCl\textsubscript{3}-catalyzed ene reaction of citronellyl acetate 146 and methyl propiolate 147 to give diester 148 (Scheme 20).\textsuperscript{60} Selective reduction of the conjugated double bond, followed by a 4-step sequence to add the additional carbon and convert it to a terminal double bond (reaction of the methyl ester with phenylsulfonylmethyllithium to add one carbon, reduction of the resulting ketone to the secondary alcohol, acetylation, and reduction of the geminal sulfone acetate with sodium amalgam in EtOH) and reacetylation to replace the acetate which had come off during this sequence, completed the synthesis of 82 in about 17% overall yield. Another route using an ene reaction between citronellyl acetate and formaldehyde gave the desired alcohol product in good yield.

**Scheme 21** Anderson’s syntheses of racemic and chiral diene 82. Reagents and conditions: (a) di(3-butenyl)lithium cuprate, ether, −20–4 °C, then Ac\textsubscript{2}O, pyridine, 46%; (b) MesCl, Et\textsubscript{3}N, 0 °C-room temp; (c) m-CPBA, CHCl\textsubscript{3}, room temp, prep. TLC, 73%; (d) HClO\textsubscript{4}, THF/H\textsubscript{2}O, 67%; (e) Mosher’s acid chloride, DMAP, MeCN, then HPLC; (f) LiAlH\textsubscript{4}, THF, 73%; (g) MesCl, Et\textsubscript{3}N, CH\textsubscript{2}Cl\textsubscript{2}; (h) KOH, MeOH, 62% over 2 steps; (i) di(3-butenyl) lithium cuprate, ether, −20–4 °C, 70%; (j) MesCl, Et\textsubscript{3}N; 97%; (k) BuLi, hexane, then H\textsubscript{2}O\textsuperscript{+}, quant.; (l) Ac\textsubscript{2}O, Et\textsubscript{3}N, ether, then m-CPBA, CH\textsubscript{2}Cl\textsubscript{2}, room temp, prep. TLC, 37%.
yield, but attempts to convert this alcohol to the pheromone
produced only complex mixtures of products (not shown).\textsuperscript{ab}

A cleaner and more practical synthesis of \textsuperscript{82} by the authors
who identified the pheromone made clever use of available
chiral synths by first developing a short nonstereoselective
synthesis from racemic citronellol to prove the basic structure
(Scheme 21A).\textsuperscript{60} Thus, the epoxide of \textsuperscript{\pm}-citronellol acetate \textsuperscript{150}
(or citronellyl pivalate) was reacted with di(3-butenyl)lithium
cuprate to regioselectively open the epoxide, and the resulting
tertiary alcohol \textsuperscript{151} was then mesylated followed by elimination
in the same pot, giving a 4 : 1 mixture of the desired isomer \textsuperscript{82}
with the tetrasubstituted double bond isomer. The latter was
removed by selective epoxidation of the more electron rich ter-
trasubstituted double bond and chromatographic separation of
the epoxide \textsuperscript{152} from the desired product \textsuperscript{82}. When the acetate
ester was used in the alkylation step, the acetate was partially
removed, requiring reacetylation of the crude product, whereas
this was not the case with the pivalate ester, but with the piv-
alate route, the pivalate had to be removed later and replaced
with acetate.

The synthesis was then repeated using \([R]\)- and \([S]\)-citronel-
lols, giving diastereomeric mixtures of \([3R,6R/S]\)- and \([3S,6R/S]\-
isomers respectively. Only the latter was attractive to male
scales, and so the epoxide from MEM-protected \((S)\)-citronellol
\textsuperscript{153} was opened to give diastereomeric diols \textsuperscript{154}, the Mosher’s
ester derivatives of which \textsuperscript{155} were separable by HPLC
(Scheme 21B). Reduction of the purified \((3S,6R)\)-hydroxy ester to
the diol \textsuperscript{154}, mesylation, and ring closure to reform the epoxide
\((3R,6R)\)-\textsuperscript{153}, followed by the alkylation and elimination
sequence as before, gave intermediate \textsuperscript{157}. Although removal of
the MEM protecting group by standard methods failed, the
authors developed a two-step sequence of treatment with strong
base followed by aqueous acid that delivered the alcohol
\((3S,6R)\)-\textsuperscript{158} in quantitative yield. Routine acetylation completed
the synthesis, and the resulting \((3S,6R)\)-\textsuperscript{82} exactly matched the
naturally produced compound. The \((3S,6S)\)-diastereomer was
made in analogous fashion from the other hydroxyester
diastereomer.

Baudouy and Maliverney exploited \((\pm)\)-dihydrocarvone \textsuperscript{159}
as a source of both stereocenters in the pheromone (Scheme
22).\textsuperscript{62} Thus, straightforward manipulations transformed
\((\pm)\)-dihydrocarvone \textsuperscript{159} into bromoester \textsuperscript{161}. DIBAL reduction
of the ester yielded the corresponding alcohol with no epime-
rization at the adjacent chiral center. The authors initially
attempted to alkylate the bromoalcohol with allylmagnesium
chloride prepared from the typical 98% pure Mg sold for

\[
\begin{align*}
159 & \quad \longrightarrow \quad 160 \\
159 & \quad \longrightarrow \quad 161 \quad \text{Br} \\
159 & \quad \longrightarrow \quad 162 \quad \text{Br}
\end{align*}
\]

Scheme 22 Synthesis of \((3S,6R)\)-\textsuperscript{82} from \((\pm)\)-dihydrocarvone. Reagents and conditions: (a) LDA, Me\textsubscript{3}SiCl, DME; (b) O\textsubscript{3}, CH\textsubscript{2}Cl\textsubscript{2}/MeOH, then
NaBH\textsubscript{4}; (c) CH\textsubscript{2}N\textsubscript{2}, ether, 90% over 3 steps; (d) MesCl, Et\textsubscript{3}N, ether; (e) Bu\textsubscript{4}NBr, benzene; (f) DIBAL, heptane, 0 °C; (g) allyl MgCl, DME, reflux, 72%;
(h) I\textsubscript{2}, imidazole, Ph\textsubscript{3}P, MeCN, 98%; (i) NaCN, DMF, 95%; (j) NaOH, EtOH/H\textsubscript{2}O; (k) LiAlH\textsubscript{4}, ether, 90% over 2 steps; (l) Ac\textsubscript{2}O, pyridine, 94%.

\[
\begin{align*}
146 & \quad \longrightarrow \quad 163 \\
146 & \quad \longrightarrow \quad 164 \\
146 & \quad \longrightarrow \quad 165 \quad \text{SO}_2 \\
166: \ R = \text{Ac} & \quad \longrightarrow \quad 167: \ R = \text{H}
\end{align*}
\]

Scheme 23 Synthesis of racemic red scale diene component from citronellyl acetate. Reagents and conditions: (a) DMSO, (CF\textsubscript{3}CO\textsubscript{2})\textsubscript{2}O, CH\textsubscript{2}Cl\textsubscript{2},
\(-10^\circ\text{C}, 90%\); (b) MeONa, MeOH, reflux, 59%; (c) reacetylate, conditions and yield not given; (d) m-CPBA, ether, \(-40^\circ\text{C}-\text{room temp}, 77\%\); (e)
LiAlH\textsubscript{4}, THF, \(-20^\circ\text{C}, 95\%\); (f) Excess BuLi, excess allyl bromide, THF/HMPA, \(-60^\circ\text{C}, 61\%\); (g) Na, NH\textsubscript{2}/THF, 52%; (h) conditions and yield not stated.
making Grignard reagents, with CuI catalysis, resulting in 65% of the desired coupling product plus 20% of a byproduct from transmethallation of the bromide. This byproduct was completely eliminated by using high purity Mg (99.8%) to prepare the Grignard reagent, and by carrying out the coupling in refluxing DME without the CuI catalyst. The synthesis was then completed by a straightforward sequence (conversion of the alcohol to iodide 162, one-carbon chain extension with NaN3, hydrolysis to the acid, reduction, and acetylation). Alternatively, iodide 162 was chain extended by reaction with the anion of phenylmethylsulfide, followed by reaction with MeI, NaI, and DMF to give the chain-extended iodide, which was converted to acetate (3S,6R)-82 by treatment with tetramethylammonium acetate in DMF.

Another stereoselective synthesis used (R)-limonene as the source of the chiral isopropenyl group at C6, with the second chiral center at C3 being generated by an asymmetric Michael reaction, giving a product with a 9 : 1 d.r. (not shown). 43

Dragan and coworkers used some interesting and unusual chemistry to devise a synthesis of the racemic pheromone from citronellyl acetate 146 (Scheme 23). 44 Thus, treatment of acetate 146 with DMSO and triflic anhydride gave allylic sulfide 163, presumably via nucleophilic attack of the alkene on the activated acylsulfonium cation from DMSO. Treatment with strong base then resulted in a 1,2-Stevens rearrangement, possibly as shown in Scheme 23. Oxidation of the resulting sulfide 165 to the sulfoxide 166, reduction of the acetate to the alcohol 167, deprotonation with 5 equivalents of BuLi and reaction with 5 equivalents of allyl bromide gave the trialkylated product 168. The large excesses were necessary in order to produce a reasonable monoalkylation yield at the desired methylene position. Reductive removal of the sulfone and acetylation completed the synthesis.

A few additional modifications have appeared since 1989. For example, Zhang et al. stereoselectively dihydroxylated (S)-citronellyl N-phenylcarbamate with the fungus Aspergillus niger. 45 The resulting diol could be converted in several steps to the (3S,6S)-epoxide of citronellyl acetate, an intermediate used in previous syntheses (150, Scheme 21). Auer et al. developed a 14-step synthesis from (R)-(+) -limonene in which a key step was electrolysis of an iodide intermediate derived from limonene with a very large excess (160 equiv) of methyl crotonate. 46 The resulting 2 : 1 mixture of the desired product with a cyclic byproduct were only separable by HPLC, limiting the utility of the synthesis. Kefalas and Ragoussis reported a 3-step synthesis from (S)-citronellyl acetate 146 (Scheme 24), 47 using regioselective allylic oxidation, conversion of the resulting alcohol 169 to chloride 170, and S$_2$N$_2$ alkylation of the chloride using 3-butenylmagnesium bromide with copper catalysis, giving the S$_2$N$_2$ products (82) and S$_2$N$_2$ products in a 20 : 1 ratio. The stereochemistry at C6 was not controlled, but reports had indicated that male scale were attracted to both the (3S,6R)- and (3S,6S)-diastereomers, so this did not appear to be an issue for practical use.

**Triene component of the California red scale pheromone.** The first synthesis of the triene component of the red scale pheromone 83 was designed to be flexible enough to produce all 4 stereoisomers (Scheme 25). 39 (R)- and (S)-carvone were chosen as suitable sources of the chiral center. Thus, epoxidation of (S)-carvone 171 followed by hydrolysis of the epoxide 172 and Pb(OAc)$_4$ oxidation gave ester acetal 174. Treatment with

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**Scheme 24** 3-step synthesis of technical grade diene 82. Reagents and conditions: (a) SeO$_2$, tert-BuOOH, then NaBH$_4$, 52%; (b) Ph$_3$P, CCl$_4$, 75%; (c) 3-butenylmagnesium bromide, CuCN-2LiCl, THF, $-78$ °C, 78%.

**Scheme 25** First nonstereoselective synthesis of the triene component of red scale pheromone. Reagents and conditions: (a) H$_2$O$_2$, NaOH, MeOH, 77%; (b) HClO$_4$, THF/H$_2$O, 65 °C, 27%; (c) Pb(OAc)$_4$, EtOH/benzene, 98%; (d) HClO$_3$, PTSA, EtOH, 94%; (e) LiAlH$_4$, THF, 98%; (f) TolCl, pyridine, 90%; (g) NaBr, HMPA; 93% (h) CH$_2$==CHLi, THF, 78%; (i) PTSA, acetone/water, 96%; (j) Ph$_3$P==C(CH$_3$)$_2$CH$_2$OH, THF, 49%, Z/E ~1 : 1; (k) Ac$_2$O, pyridine, 92%. 

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triethyl orthoformate and acid in EtOH opened the ring and gave a synthon 175 with differentiated ends. Reduction of the ester, conversion of the resulting alcohol to bromide 176, and two-carbon chain extension with ethenyllithium and deprotection gave dienal 177, which was subjected to Wittig reaction to complete the carbon skeleton, followed by acetylation. The (Z)- and (E)-isomers of 83 were separated by preparative GC, and the opposite enantiomers were generated from (R)-carvone. The (R,Z)-isomer matched the insect-produced compound.

Since that first synthesis, a number of other strategies have been explored, using synthons derived from the chiral pool (e.g., enantiomers of carvone or limonene), or induction of asymmetry in achiral precursors. Control of the stereochemistry of the trisubstituted alkene also has been addressed by a number of different approaches.

In the first general strategy exploiting the chiral pool, dienal 177 or the corresponding alcohol have been used in several routes. For example, two routes used chiral aldehyde 177 generated from (R)-limonene as a key intermediate. In the first, Wittig reaction between aldehyde 177 and the ylide from 3-hydroxy-1-methylpropyltriphenylphosphonium iodide, analogous to the route used by Roelofs et al.\textsuperscript{59} gave a 67 : 33 mixture of the (Z)- and (E)-isomers of the penultimate alcohol in 75% yield (not shown).\textsuperscript{63} The second route achieved excellent control over the alkene geometry, but at the cost of a considerably longer route (Scheme 26).\textsuperscript{68} Thus, reaction between aldehyde 177 and silylimine 179 (generated in 4 steps from 1,4-butanediol in 63% yield) followed by hydrolysis gave α,β-unsaturated aldehyde 180 in an 87 : 13 ratio favoring the desired (E)-isomer, and the undesired (Z)-isomer was cleanly isomerized to the (E)-isomer by treatment of the mixture with pyridinium hydrochloride. After reduction of the aldehyde to the corresponding alcohol 181, the synthesis was completed by one of two sequences in similar yields, i.e., reductive removal of the benzyl protecting group, selective conversion of the allicylic alcohol of 182 to the chloride, reduction of the chloride to the methyl group, and acetylation, or conversion of the allicylic alcohol to a sulfate leaving group, reduction to the methyl, and simultaneous

Scheme 26 Baudouy and Prince’s route to (R)-83. Reagents and conditions: (a) s-BuLi, THF, −78−0 °C, then aq. oxalic acid; pyridinium hydrochloride, CH₂Cl₂, 66%; (b) LiAlH₄, ether, 100%; (c) Li/NH₃/ether, 88%; (d) NCS, Me₂S/CH₂Cl₂; (e) LiAlH₄, ether; 85% over 2 steps; (f) Ac₂O, pyridine, 94%.

Scheme 27 Two routes to chiral aldehyde (R)-177 based on asymmetric induction. Reagents and conditions: (a) malonic acid, pyridine, pyrrolidine, reflux, 79%; (b) SOCl₂, 0 °C-reflux, 94%; (c) (S)-ephedrine, proton sponge®, THF, 88%; (d) isopropenylmagnesium bromide, THF/ether, −60 to −20 °C, 51–69%; (e) DIBAL-H, hexane, then MeOH, H₂O⁺, 21%; (f) BuLi, THF, −78 °C to room temp, 83%; (g) NaBH₄, pH 6–8, 98%; (h) H₂O⁺, reflux, 45%; (i) t-butyl (S)-2-amino-3,3-dimethylbutyrate, benzene, 0 °C; (j) isopropenylmagnesium bromide, THF/ether, −70 to −15 °C; (k) H₂O⁺, 43% over 3 steps.
removal of the benzyl protecting group and acetylation with acetic anhydride with perchloric acid catalysis (not shown). Chiral dienal 177 also has been produced from camphor, but in a very long route (13 steps). 69

In an interesting comparative study, Whittaker and coworkers used three different methods of asymmetric induction to generate key dienal 177 enantioselectively. 70

The first (Scheme 27A) began with two-carbon chain extension of 4-pentenal 183 with malonic acid and pyridine/pyrrolidine. Although the acid 184 was obtained as an E/Z mixture, the conditions used for conversion to the acid chloride 185 resulted in isomerization of the (Z)-isomer, producing pure (E)-2,6-heptadienoyl chloride 185. Reaction with (L)-ephedrine in the presence of 1,8-bis(dimethylamino)naphthalene (proton sponge®) gave a, b-unsaturated amide 186. 1,4-Addition of 2-propenylmagnesium bromide and cleavage of the amide with DIBAL gave the aldehyde (R)-177, with an unfortunate 21% yield in the cleavage step. The second route (Scheme 27B) proceeded via addition of lithiated 2,4,4,6-tetramethyl-5,6-dihydro-1,3-oxazine 188 to 4-pentenal 183. Reduction of the oxazine 189 to the cyclic aminal 190 and acid hydrolysis gave 2,6-heptadienal 191 as the pure (E)-isomer. This route was selected from among several tried because the others had problems with low yield, awkward byproducts, or incomplete control of the double bond stereochemistry. Reaction of enal 191 with tert-butyl (S)-2-amino-3,3-dimethylbutyrate 192 gave conjugated imine 193. Enantioselective addition of isopropenylmagnesium bromide created the chiral center, followed by hydrolysis of the imine to aldehyde (R)-177. A third route (not shown) used an oxazoline chiral auxiliary to successfully introduce the chiral center, but it proved impossible to remove the auxiliary group without degradation of the product.

In yet another variation, Normant’s group formed a chiral acetal with a twofold axis of symmetry by transacetalization of (E)-2,6-heptadienal diethyl acetal with (2R,3R)-2,3-butanediol. 1,4-Addition of isopropenyl copper in the presence of LiBr, BF₃, and Bu₃P followed by acidic hydrolysis gave key aldehyde 177, but in only 85% ee (not shown). 71

Racemic dienal 177 has been generated by reaction of 4-pentenal 183 with the stabilized ylid from triethylphosphono-2-propionate, reduction to the alcohol 195, Claisen orthoester rearrangement with triethylorthoacetate via 196, reduction to the alcohol 198, and PCC oxidation to dienal 177 (Scheme 28). 72

Scheme 28 Synthesis of racemic aldehyde 177 by Claisen rearrangement. Reagents and conditions: (a) triethyl phosphono-2-propionate, NaH, ether, 0 °C, 74%; (b) LiAlH₄, ether, 0 °C, 81%; (c) (EtO)₃CH, H+, 140 °C, 82%; (d) LiAlH₄, ether, 0 °C, 81%; (e) PCC, CH₂Cl₂, 55%.

Scheme 29 Syntheses of racemic and chiral triene 83 based on 2,3-Wittig rearrangements. Reagents and conditions: (a) LDA, THF/HMPA, 1-bromo-3-butene, -78 °C, 80%; (b) LiAlH₄, solvent not given; (c) Ph₃P, NBS, solvent not given, 93% over 2 steps; (d) Mg, ether, -20 °C, 52%; (e) KH, Bu₃SnCH₂I, THF, then BuLi, -78 °C; (f) Ac₂O, pyridine, 83% over 2 steps. (g) CH₂=CH(Me)CuPBu₃, BF₃, -78–40 °C, >90%; (h) LiAlH₄, 96%; (i) (COCl)₂, DMSO, -78 °C, then Et₂N, 85%; (j) CH₂=CHCH₃Li, ether, -78 °C, 85%; (k) steps, ~71%.
A second group of strategies focused on controlling the stereochemistry of the trisubstituted double bond. In the first synthesis of this type, Still and Mitra developed a short and efficient synthesis in which the stereochemistry of the trisubstituted double bond was controlled by the geometry of the transition state of a 2,3-Wittig rearrangement (Scheme 29A). Thus, ethyl 3,3-dimethacrylate 199 was deconjugatively alkylated at the α-position with 1-bromo-3-butene, and the ester 200 was reduced to the alcohol 201 which was converted to the corresponding bromide 202. Reaction of the Grignard reagent from bromide 202 with methacrolein 57 gave allylic alcohol 203, the anion of which was alkylated with iodomethyltributyltin to give 204. Transmetallation with BuLi then induced a 2,3-sigmatropic rearrangement, giving the desired (Z)-isomer of the alcohol precursor 178 to the pheromone with 95–96% isomeric purity. The high stereoselectivity was suggested to be a consequence of the large R-group in the 5-membered transition state adopting a pseudoaxial orientation for sterical reasons. The synthesis was completed by acetylation.

Oppolzer and Stevenson generated intermediate 203 by enantioselective alkylation of (E)-acid 205 esterified with a Re-face directing chiral auxiliary (Scheme 29B). Reaction with \( \text{CH}_2=\text{CH}[(\text{Me})\text{P}-\text{Bu}]_3 \) and BF₃, followed by reduction to the alcohol 198, oxidation to the aldehyde 177, and reaction with 2-propenyllithium gave the key intermediate 203 from the Still and Mitra synthesis but with the chiral center fixed. Alcohol 203 was then carried through to the final product (R)-83 (98.2% ee) via the (Z)-selective 2,3-sigmatropic rearrangement developed by Still and Mitra (see above). The key allylic alcohol 203 has also been generated in 14 steps from camphor.

Cooke and Burman used a trisubstituted alkene synthon with the desired stereochemistry in place rather than trying to control the stereochemistry during reactions (Scheme 30). Thus, spinning band distillation of dimethyl glutaconate gave the (Z)-isomer 207 in high purity, which was reduced to diol 208. Regioselective halogenation and protection of the homoallylic alcohol gave key intermediate 209. The second required intermediate, ylide 212, was formed by acylation of stabilized triphenylphosphorane 211, followed by elimination of HCl to give the terminal enone 212 as a methyl vinyl ketone equivalent. Sequential conjugate addition of allyllithium and alkylation of the resulting enolate 213 with bromide 209 inserted two of the
three alkenes. Decarbalkoxylation and simultaneous replacement of the THP with acetate by treatment with hot AcOH, followed by cleavage of the acetate with K₂CO₃ in MeOH and the ylide with aqueous ethanolic NaOH gave ketone 215. Acetylation and Wittig reaction to install the terminal methylene completed the synthesis.

In their stereoselective synthesis of the trisubstituted alkene (R)-83 (Scheme 31), Caine and Crews regioselectively opened the epoxide ring of epoxidized (S)-carvone 172 with thiophenol, and under the conditions of a Wittig olefination, the resulting keto alcohol underwent an in situ retroaldol condensation, with the resulting aldehyde being captured by the ylide from 3-hydroxy-1-methylpropyltriphenylphosphonium bromide. The high (Z)-selectivity was attributed to unfavorable electrostatic interactions between three negatively charged groups in the betaine intermediate that would lead to the (E)-isomer. Although the stereochemistry of the trisubstituted alkene was controlled, 5 further steps were required to remove the keto and sulfide groups and place the terminal alkene, the final product was contaminated with 11% of the isomer with the terminal double bond moved in one position, and yields were not given for all steps, so the efficiency of the synthesis is unclear.

Celebuski and Rosenblum exploited the ability of (η⁵-allyl)ferrocenyliiron complexes to undergo electrophilic addition to form a dihapto iron-olefin cation, followed by regio- and stereoselective addition of a nucleophile, to simultaneously install both the trisubstituted double bond and one of the two terminal double bonds (Scheme 32). Thus, reaction of allylic chloride 221, prepared in one step from commercial diene 220, with C₃H₅Fe(CO)₂Na (FpNa, prepared from Fp₂ by reduction with Na/Hg amalgam) gave allylic organometallic 222 via Sₛ₂²⁻ and/or spontaneous rearrangement of the product from Sₛ₁ reaction. The second synthon was prepared in two steps from 3,6-dihydro-4-methyl-2H-pyran 223, by ring-opening with acetyl chloride catalyzed by Zeise’s salt, and conversion of the resulting acetoxycarbonyl chloride 224 to the iodide 225 with NaI in acetone. Fortuitously, stirring the 1 : 1 mixture of (E/Z)-isomers of 225 with the Fp-diene complex 222 in nitromethane for several days resulted in exclusive production of the desired (Z)-isomer of the pheromone because only the (Z)-isomer of iodide 225 reacted with the complex, and the iodide apparently isomerized under the reaction conditions so that as the (Z)-isomer was consumed, it was replaced by continuing isomerization of the (E)-isomer. The specificity of the alkylation reaction was proposed to be due to anchimeric assistance to ionization by the acetox group, which would be possible with the (Z)-but not the (E)-isomer of iodide 225.

McCullough et al. cleverly manipulated the regiochemistry of alkylation of allyl anion intermediates in their synthesis of racemic 83 (Scheme 33). Thus, deprotonation of methallyl phenyl sulfide and regioselective α-alkylation of the anion 226 with 1-bromo-3-butene gave 227. Reductive lithiation with lithium 4,4'-di(tert-butyl)biphenyl (LDDB), transmetallation with titanium, and reaction with formaldehyde resulted in regioselective alkylation at the most substituted terminus of the metallated intermediate. Conversion of the resulting alcohol
to bromide 202, followed by another regioselective alkylation with lithiated methallyl phenyl sulfide 226 at the z-position gave allylic sulfide 228. Reductive lithiation with LDBB, transmetallation with CeCl3, and reaction with formaldehyde resulted in both regioselective alkylation at the least substituted terminus this time, and high selectivity for the (Z)-alkene, due to the configuration of the anion remaining fixed by complexation with cerium. Acetylation completed the synthesis.

Vasil’ev et al. addressed the alkene stereochemistry problem with a (Z)-selective, 1,4-dihydrogenation of a conjugated diene precursor (Scheme 34).78 Thus, aldehyde 229, generated in ~34% yield in 4 steps from ethyl acetoacetate, subjected to Wadsworth–Horner–Emmons olefination gave triene 230 in ~79% yield, as a 65 : 35 mixture of (2E,4E)- and (2Z,4E)-isomers. 1,4-Dihydrogenation of this mixture with a methyl benzoate-methylene, DMAP, CH2Cl2, 99%; (b) CuCl (5%), PPh3 (6%), generated in 4 steps and 63% yield from (Z)-selective protodeboronation and conversion of an (E)-allylic boronic ester into a (Z)-trisubstituted alkene (Scheme 35).79 Thus, vinylboronate ester 234 was prepared in two steps from 2-buten-1-ol 232 by TBDMS-protection of the alcohol followed by copper-catalyzed hydrosilation with pinacolborane. Deprotonation of the 2,4,6-trisopropylbenzoate ester 235 (prepared in 4 steps and 63% yield from (R)-limonene) and reaction with the boronic ester 234 gave the expected ate complex, which upon heating rearranged to the allylic intermediate 236. Treatment with TBAF·3H2O and heating resulted in sequential removal of the protecting group and protodeboronation to give alcohol 178, with >20 : 1 (Z/E) selectivity. The stereoselectivity was attributed to steric interactions disfavoring the (E)-isomer in the proposed six-membered ring transition state during protodeboronation. Acetylation completed the synthesis.

Pheromone of white peach scale. The pheromone of the white peach scale was originally identified as propionate ester (R)-84, using a combination of liquid and preparative gas chromatography to isolate the active compound, and spectroscopic data with microchemical tests to identify it.80 However, there may be different pheromone races or possibly even cryptic species of white peach scale. Specifically, populations from France were found to produce the corresponding alcohol 241 in larger quantities than the propanoate ester, and males from this population required both compounds for optimal response.81 In contrast, Florida males responded best to the propanoate alone, and responses were decreased by higher doses of the alcohol in combination with the ester.82 Unfortunately, the original paper describing the identification of the propanoate from the Florida population did not mention whether the alcohol was present in the aeration extracts.

The core structure of the white peach scale pheromone alcohol 241 and ester 84 differs from that of the triene ester component of the red scale pheromone 83 by a single methyl group on carbon 9, and so the syntheses of white peach scale pheromone usually involved minor modifications to those routes. In fact, the initial syntheses were somewhat easier than those for red scale pheromone because the product from ozonolysis of limonene was perfectly set up for straightforward elaboration to the desired structure. Thus, limonene 237 was ozonized in MeOH with a trace of acid and quenching with Me2S, producing protected ketoaldehyde 238 in one step (Scheme 36A).83 Wittig reaction to convert the ketone to a terminal methylene, deprotection of the aldehyde, and a second

![Scheme 34](image1)

**Scheme 34** Synthesis of racemic triene 83 by a (Z)-selective, 1,4-dihydrogenation. Reagents and conditions: (a) triethyl 3-methyl-4-phosphonoacrylate, KOH, 18-crown-6, benzene, 69%; (b) H2, 80 atm, (PhCOOMe)Cr(CO)3, acetone, 120 °C, 52%; (c) LiAIH4 ether, (d) oxalic acid, H2O/acetone, reflux, 52% over 2 steps; (e) Ph3P=CH2, THF/DMSO; (f) Ac2O, Na2CO3, 100 °C, 45% over 2 steps.

![Scheme 35](image2)

**Scheme 35** Synthesis of triene (R)-83 from a synthon with the double bond geometry already in place. Reagents and conditions: (a) TBDMSCl, imidazole, DMAP, CH2Cl2, 99%; (b) CuCl (5%), PPh3 (6%), t-BuOK (20%), B2pin2, MeOH/THF, room temp; (c) s-BuLi, TMEDA, Et2O, –78 °C-reflux; (d) TBAF·3H2O, room temp–45 °C, 73% over 2 steps; (e) Ac2O, pyridine, 99%.
Wittig reaction with the lithium salt of 3-triphenylphosphoranylidene-1-butanol completed the carbon skeleton, and the \((E)\) and \((Z)\)-isomers were separated by HPLC before final esterification with propanoic anhydride. Thus, by using both enantiomers of limonene as starting materials, all possible isomers were generated, and the insect-produced compound was determined to be the \((Z)\)-isomer by GC, and the \((R)\)-enantiomer via bioassays.

In a significant improvement to this route, generation of \(\text{Ph}_3\text{P}==\text{C(\text{CH}_3)CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OLi}\) by reaction of ethyldienetriphenylphosphorane with ethylene oxide followed by deprotonation, as opposed to generation of the phosphoranylidene by reaction of the lithium salt of 3-triphenylphosphoranylidene-1-propanol with MeI gave a much cleaner and higher yielding Wittig reaction. In an interesting final modification, the authors discovered that deprotonation of the betaine 242 initially formed by reaction between ethyldienetriphenylphosphorane and aldehyde 240, followed by reaction with ethylene oxide and elimination of triphenylphosphine oxide, gave 98% \((Z)\)-selectivity, albeit in low (15%) yield (Scheme 36B).

Because male scale appeared to be the \((E)\)-catalyst, a recently filed patent used essentially the same route to prepare the pheromone as blends of the \((E)\)- and \((Z)\)-isomers for field use.

The synthesis of Vasil’ev et al. was identical to theirs, with the exception that 1-bromo-3-methyl-3-butene was used to make the protected ketoaldehyde starting material in place of 1-bromo-3-butene. Because male scale appeared to be indifferent to the \((E)\)-isomer, a recently filed patent used essentially the same route to prepare the pheromone as blends of the \((E)\)- and \((Z)\)-isomers for field use.

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The only published synthesis of \((R)\)-solanone 85 began with asymmetric induction using Evans’ chiral oxazolidinone chemistry to place the chiral center (Scheme 38). Dihydroxylation of the intermediate 246 resulted in spontaneous lactonization to the \(\gamma\)-lactone, followed by acetylation to give 247. Reduction of the ester and lactone simultaneously, and selective formation of the acetone from the vicinal diol gave 248. Swern oxidation of the primary alcohol followed by Horner–Wadsworth–Emmons olefination with diethyl-(2-methylallyl)phosphonate gave the 1,3-diene 249 as one stereoisomer. One-pot cleavage of the acetone and oxidative cleavage of the resulting diol gave an aldehyde which was reduced to alcohol 250 and converted to the tosylate. Displacement of the tosylate with cyanide, followed by reaction of the resulting nitrile 251 with MeMgBr and aqueous workup gave a few milligrams of \((R)\)-solanone \((R)\)-85, sufficient for bioassays to verify its bioactivity.

\[\text{Scheme 36} \quad \text{Syntheses of white peach scale pheromone enantiomers from either enantiomer of limonene. Reagents and conditions:} \quad (a) \text{O}_\text{s}, \text{MeOH, Me}_{2}\text{S, H}^+, 80\%; (b) \text{Ph}_3\text{P}=\text{C(\text{CH}_3)CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH, THF, 75\%;} (c) \text{PTSA, acetone/H}_2\text{O, 96\%;} (d) \text{Ph}_3\text{P}=\text{C(\text{CH}_3)CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OLi, THF, 48\%;} (e) \text{EtCO}_2\text{O, pyridine, 90\%;} (f) \text{BuLi, THF, Ph}_3\text{PEtBr, }-78^\circ\text{C;} (g) \text{BuLi, }-78^\circ\text{C;} (h) \text{ethylene oxide, }-5^\circ\text{C, 15\%.}\]

\[\text{Scheme 37} \quad \text{Mori and coworkers’ partially described synthesis of (S)-solanone. Reagents and conditions:} \quad (a) \text{MesCl, Et}_2\text{N, CH}_2\text{Cl}_2, \text{ then diisopropylethylamine, HMPA, 140–180 }^\circ\text{C, 64\%.}\]
3.2 Cyclic pheromones

3.2.1 Cyclopropane-containing pheromones: esters of chrysanthemol. To date, two mealybug pheromones with cyclopropane rings have been identified, both of which are esters of (1R,3R)-chrysanthemol (Fig. 4).

*Madeira mealybug pheromone.* The sex pheromone of the Madeira mealybug, *Phenacoccus madeirensis* Green, was identified by Ho and coworkers as (1R,3R)-2-methylbutanoic acid 2-acetoxy-3-methylbutyryl ester ([2,2-dimethyl-3-(2-methylprop-1-enyl)cyclopropyl]methyl (R)-2-methylbutanoate) (Fig. 4).\(^{252}\) The absolute configuration in the acid moiety was determined by comparison of retention times of the acid and alcohol portions with those of enantiopure standards on a chiral column. (1R,3R)- and (1S,3S)-Chrysanthemol were obtained by resolution of racemic trans-chrysanthemol by lipase-catalyzed acylation with succinic anhydride.\(^{26}\) 2-Methylbutanoic acid was resolved by formation of diastereomeric amides with (S)-α-methylbenzylamine, separation by semipreparative HPLC, and hydrolysis of the separated diastereomers in refluxing 70% \(\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4\), without epimerization. (R)-Lavandulyl (R)-2-methylbutanoate was identified as a minor component in extracts from virgin females, but it was not attractive to males, nor did it act synergistically or additively with the main component 252.

Ho and coworkers also studied the relationship between chirality and bioactivity of the stereoisomers of 252 (Fig. 5).\(^{99}\) The insect-produced (1R,3R,2′R)-isomer was most attractive, whereas the (1R,3R,2′S)-diastereomer (opposite stereochemistry in the acid portion) was inhibitory. In contrast, the (1S,3S,2′R)-isomer (opposite stereochemistry in the alcohol portion) was neither attractive nor inhibitory. The diastereomers prepared from the cis-alcohol (1R,3S,2′R and 1S,3R,2′R) were also inhibitory.

![Fig 4](image)

**Fig 4** Cyclopropane-containing pheromones (esters of chrysanthemol).

*Citrophilous mealybug pheromone.* The sex pheromone of the citrophilous mealybug, *Pseudococcus calcicolariae*, was identified jointly by New Zealand and Chilean teams as [2,2-dimethyl-3-(2-methylprop-1-enyl)cyclopropyl]methyl 2-acetoxy-3-methylbutanoate (chrysanthemyl 2-acetoxy-3-methylbutanoate) 253, and readily synthesized by esterification of trans-chrysanthemol with 2-acetoxy-3-methylbutyryl chloride.\(^{90}\) Unelius and coworkers subsequently determined the absolute configuration to be (1R,3R)-chrysanthemyl (R)-2-acetoxy-3-methylbutanoate by comparison of the retention times of the acid and alcohol portions with synthetic standards on a chiral column.\(^{99}\) The correct stereoisomer of the pheromone was readily prepared from (1R,3R)-chrysanthemol (from LiAlH₄ reduction of commercial (1R,3R)-chrysanthemic acid) and (R)-2-acetoxy-3-methylbutyryl chloride (from acetylation of the hydroxyacid with \(\text{Ac}_2\text{O}\) and pyridine, then conversion to the acid chloride with oxalyl chloride). The (R)-configuration in the acid moiety was necessary for activity. The non-natural stereoisomers were at most slightly inhibitory, so that relatively inexpensive racemic chrysanthemol could be used for commercial synthesis of the pheromone.

3.2.2 Cyclobutane-containing pheromones: esters of the monoterpenols planococcy alcohol and maconelliol. Four pheromones with a cyclobutane core structure have been identified from three mealybug and one scale species (Fig. 6).

*Citrus mealybug pheromone.* The sex pheromone of the citrus mealybug, *Planococcus citri* (Risso), was identified by Bierl-Leonhardt and coworkers as (1R,3R)-3-isopropenyl-2,2-dimethylcyclobutylmethyl acetate [(1R,3R)-planococcy acetate] 254.\(^{92}\) The natural enantiomer and the racemate were equally active,

![Fig 5](image)

**Fig 5** Stereosomers of Madeira mealybug pheromone.
indicating no inhibition by the unnatural (1S,3S)-enantiomer.93 The trans isomers were much less active than 254.92 Several syntheses have been reported, most of which used (+)-α-pinene 258 as an obvious starting material because it contains the required cyclobutane skeleton, and precursors to all the functional groups with the correct substitution pattern and stereochemistry. Thus, (+)-α-pinene 258, or (R)-(−)-verbenone 259 prepared by allylic oxidation of (+)-α-pinene, were subjected to oxidative ring opening. Syntheses reported before 1989 have been thoroughly reviewed² and will not be discussed further here.

Scheme 39 summarizes Passaro’s synthesis of (R)-254,²⁴ which incorporated two major improvements to a previous route.⁹⁵ Specifically, the crucial step of ruthenium-catalyzed oxidative ring opening with concomitant decarboxylation of (R)-(+) verbenone 259 was carried out in aqueous tert-butanol instead of CCl₄ : CH₃CN : H₂O (2 : 1 : 4). This modified procedure afforded (+) cis-pinononic acid 260 in excellent yield (94%), was easier to perform, and simplified product isolation. Secondly, methylation of 260 using Zn/CH₃Br₂/TiCl₄ (ref. 96) was superior to Wittig reactions in larger scale preparations. LiAlH₄ reduction of acid 261 and acetylation of the resulting alcohol 262 gave the desired pheromone 254 in >40% overall yield from verbenone.

Kukovinets et al. used essentially the same route and intermediates, but slightly different reagents, for example, employing ozonolysis for the oxidative cleavage of the ring.⁹⁷ Another route began with direct oxidative cleavage of the ring in (+)-α-pinene 258 by ozonolysis to give ketoaldehyde 263 (Scheme 40).⁹³ Selective conversion of the aldehyde to enol acetate 264 followed by a second ozonolysis removed one carbon, and chemoselective reduction⁹⁸ of the aldehyde of 265 with Zn(BH₄)₂ in mixed ether solvents gave pinononic alcohol 266, which was subjected to Wittig reaction and acetylation to afford the pheromone 254. All intermediates were used as crude materials, and only the final product was purified by chromatography to provide technical grade (85% pure) pheromone, which proved to be as active as the pure pheromone in field trials.

Citrus mealybug pheromone. The sex pheromone of the citrus mealybug, Pseudococcus cryptus Hempel, was identified by Arai and coworkers as (1R,3R)-3-isopropenyl-2,2-dimethylocyclobutylmethyl 3-methyl-3-butenoate 255 [(1R,3R)-planococcyl 3-methyl-3-butenoate].⁹⁹ The alcohol portion was identical to that of the citrus mealybug pheromone.

Scheme 41 summarizes Nakahata’s 5-step synthesis that utilized all ten carbon atoms of the starting material (+)-α-pinene 258.¹⁰⁰ Thus, treatment of (+)-α-pinene with Pb(OAc)₄
gave 267 with a small amount of allylic rearrangement product 268 (95 : 5 ratio). The order of addition and careful drying of the Pb(OAc)₄ were crucial for minimizing the formation of 268. Ozonolysis with reductive workup, followed by methanalysis of the acetate gave triol 269. 269 was converted into a mixture of acetate 254 and formate 272 (3 : 4 ratio) by conversion of the vicinal diols into olefins via 2-methoxy-1,3-dioxolane derivatives 270 and 271 and subsequent treatment with Ac₂O.¹⁰¹ The mixture of 254 and 272 was hydrolyzed to alcohol 262 in a one-pot operation. The alcohol 262 was esterified with 3-methyl-3-butenolic acid in the presence of DCC and DMAP. The use of only a catalytic amount of DMAP (about 0.1 equivalent) was essential for preventing migration of the double bond of the acid portion into conjugation.

**Alcoveita scale pheromone.** The pheromone of the invasive scale *Acustapis albopicta* was recently identified as (1S,3S)-3-isopropenyl-2,2-dimethylcyclobutylmethyl (-)-2-methylbutanoate 256, in which the alcohol portion is the enantiomer of that found in the pheromones of the citrus and citriculus mealybugs.¹⁰² The alcohol portion was synthesized from (S)-(-)-verbenone by the method of Passaro et al. (see Scheme 39),²⁴ the acid portion was made by kinetic resolution of 2-methylbutanol with Amano lipase PF, followed by Jones oxidation of the resolved alcohols, and the ester linkage was made by treatment of a CH₂Cl₂ solution of the acid and alcohol portions with the coupling reagent 1-ethyl-3-[3-dimethylaminopropyl]carbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC) and DMAP.¹⁰³ The other stereoisomers were made by synthesis of the enantiomeric alcohol portion from (R)(+)-verbenone, and esterifications with commercially available (S)-2-methylbutanoic acid or (R)-2-methylbutanoic prepared as described above. Bioassays of all 4 stereoisomers determined that the absolute configuration of the monoterpenol portion was critical, with the (1R,3R,2'R) and (1S,3S,2'S) diastereomers being inactive, whereas the (1S,3S)-alcohol esterified with either enantiomer of 2-methylbutanoic acid were equally active, indicating that the male scale did not discriminate the absolute configuration of the acid portion of the pheromone.

**Pink hibiscus mealybug pheromone (major component).** As mentioned earlier, the sex pheromone of the pink hibiscus mealybug, *Maconellicoccus hirsutus* (Green), was identified by Zhang and coworkers as a 1 : 5 mixture of (R)-lavandulyl (S)-2-methylbutanoate 37 and (R)-maconelliyl (S)-2-methylbutanoate 257.²⁵ Maconelliol 276, the alcohol portion of 257, is structurally similar to the planococyl alcohol portion of the citrus and citriculus mealybug pheromones, with a methylethylidene group on the ring instead of an isopropenyl group. Zhang *et al.* developed an enantioselective synthesis of 257 (Scheme 42)¹⁰⁴

### Scheme 41  Synthesis of the citriculus mealybug pheromone (1R,3R)-255 from (+)-α-pinene 258. Reagents and conditions: (a) Pb(OAc)₄, C₆H₆, 75%, 267 : 268 = 95 : 5; (b) O₃, MeOH, then NaBH₄, and finally K₂CO₃, 72%; (c) HC(OMe)₃, PPTS, THF; (d) Ac₂O, then aq. NaOH, 88% for 2 steps; (e) 3-methyl-3-butenolic acid, DCC, DMAP, 91%.

### Scheme 42  Synthesis of (1R,2'S)-257, the major component of the pink hibiscus mealybug pheromone from (+)-α-pinene 258. Reagents and conditions: (a) MeLi/Et₂O, 1.0 equiv, THF, -20 °C, 15 min; (b) MeMgCl/THF, 1.6 equiv, -10 °C, 30 min; (c) POCl₃, pyridine, room temp, 24 h, 75%; (d) PTSA, C₆H₅CO, reflux, 24 h, 78%; (e) LiAIH₄, Et₂O, room temp, overnight, 88%; (f) (S)-2-methylbutanoic acid, (COCl)₂, DMF, C₆H₆, room temp, 1.5 h, 79%.
starting from \((+)-\text{cis-pinonic acid} \ 260\), a key intermediate in the citrus mealybug pheromone synthesis (see Scheme 39). Reaction of \(260\) (94% ee) with 3 equivalents of MeMgCl resulted in partial loss of enantiomeric purity (80% ee) due to double epimerization during nucleophilic addition. However, reaction with 1 equivalent of MeLi followed by 1.6 equivalents of MeMgCl gave tertiary alcohol 273 with no loss of chirality. Thinking to prevent decarboxylation during dehydoration, 273 was converted to its methyl ester, but when the ester was subjected to conventional dehydoration methods, the desired methylethylidene product was contaminated with the isomeric isomer, which was difficult to separate. However, treatment of the free acid 273 under the same conditions resulted in lactone 274 as the only product, which was cleanly converted to the desired methylethylidene product 275 by treatment with acid. LiAlH₄ reduction and condensation of the resulting alcohol 276 with \((S)-2\)-methylbutanoic acid gave the desired ester \((1R,2'S)-257\) in good yield.

Zhang and coworkers carried out a systematic study of the relationship between chirality and biological activity of the stereoisomers of \(257\). Their results suggested that the stereochemistry of the acid portion is more critical than that of the alcohol portion. Thus, the \((R)\)-alcohol esterified with the \((S)\)-acid was attractive, whereas the \((R,R)\)-diastereomer was inhibitory. The chiral center in the alcohol portion was less important to attraction or inhibition. Importantly, this was the first report of enantiomeric antagonism in any mealybug or scale insects. Furthermore, optimal attraction was critically dependent on dose, with doses above 10 \(\mu\)g resulting in decreased attraction.

**Ester of a cyclobutane-containing sesquiterpenol: oleander scale pheromone.** The oleander scale pheromone is the only example so far of a scale or mealybug pheromone incorporating a sesquiterpenoid cyclobutane structure. Its identification required the integration of fragments of information from a variety of analysis methods. High resolution tandem MS provided the molecular formula \((C_{17}H_{28}O_{2})\) and the formulae of a number of fragments obtained from the parent molecule and some derivatives. Microchemical reactions showed the presence of two \(C=C\) double bonds, one ring, and an acetate ester, but this still did not allow determination of the complete structure. Subsequently, \(^1H\) and \(^13C\) spectra acquired on 900 \(\mu\)g of pheromone accumulated over several years yielded the basic structure but not the relative and absolute stereochemistries, nor were the authors successful in preparing crystalline derivatives. Thus, the final structure was proven by synthesis of isomers of known configuration, and bioassays of the two possible enantiomers showed that the insect-produced compound likely had the \((1R,2S)\)-configuration (Fig. 7).

The goal of the first synthetic effort was to develop stereoselective syntheses of all four possible stereoisomers with known absolute configurations, in large enough amounts to
provide material for bioassays, and without having to resolve scalemic intermediates (Scheme 43).\(^{106}\) \((R)\)- and \((S)\)-carvone were chosen as readily accessible chiral synthons, and the initial steps of the synthesis were modeled after those used in the synthesis of grandisol, a monoterpenoid analog containing the same 1,1,2-trisubstituted cyclobutane motif. Thus, \((R)\)-\((\rightarrow)\)-carvone 171 was converted to acetal ester 175 in 3 steps, followed by alkylation of the corresponding enolate to install the longest side chain. Hydrolysis of the acetal, reduction of the aldehyde, and transformation of the resulting alcohol then yielded the key intermediate 278 for formation of the cyclobutane ring. After careful optimization of the conditions, the cyclization proceeded in 46% yield, giving an unexpectedly high 19 : 1 ratio of the two possible diastereomers of 279. The order of the steps was critical because it proved impossible to install the long side chain if the cyclization was performed first. With the 1,1,2-trisubstituted cyclobutane core assembled, straightforward functional group manipulations then gave \((1S,2S)\)-277, in 14 steps from \((R)\)-carvone.

The authors then tried to take advantage of the high stereoccontrol obtained in the cyclization step to develop a synthesis of the other diastereomer, by installing the acetoxethyl side-chain or a suitable precursor before cyclizing, and then converting the carboethoxy group to the 4-methyl-4-pentenyl side-chain. However, several variations on this theme were not successful. Instead, \((1S,2S)\)-280 from the first synthesis was oxidized to the diketone 281, and the ketone directly attached to the ring was epimerized with base, giving an inseparable 2 : 3 mixture of diastereomers of 281. Wittig reactions then installed the two terminal methylenes, followed by conversion of the nitrile to the alcohol diastereomers 282, which were separable by flash chromatography. Acetylation of each alcohol then

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**Scheme 44** Petschen’s synthesis of racemic and chiral forms of oleander scale pheromone. Reagents and conditions: (a) LDA, Br(CH\(_2\))\(_2\)OMOM, THF/HMPA, 61%; (b) \(m\)-CPBA, CH\(_2\)Cl\(_2\), 92%; (c) LiHMDS, THF, 0°C-reflux, 60%; (d) TBDMSI, imidazole, DMF, 98%; (e) DIBAL, hexane, then H\(_2\)O\(_2\), 90%; (f) Ph\(_2\)P=CHCH\(_2\)Cl, THF, 82%; (g) H\(_2\), Pd/C, EtOH, 90%; (h) TBAF, THF, 98%; (i) PDC, DMF, 97%; (j) Amberlyst A15 resin, acetone/H\(_2\)O, 95%; (k) Dowex 50W-X4, MeOH, then SiO\(_2\), hexane, acetone/H\(_2\)O; (l) excess Ph\(_3\)P=CH\(_2\), THF, 45% over 2 steps; (m) Ac\(_2\)O, Et\(_3\)N, DMAP, CH\(_2\)Cl\(_2\), 98%.

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**Scheme 45** Synthesis of an advanced intermediate for the oleander scale pheromone. Reagents and conditions: (a) TiCl\(_4\), CH\(_2\)Cl\(_2\), room temp – reflux, 96%; (b) LiAlH\(_4\), THF, 93%; (c) PivCl, Et\(_3\)N, DMAP, CH\(_2\)Cl\(_2\), 90%; (d) BF\(_3\)-2AcOH, CICH\(_2\)CH\(_2\)Cl, reflux, then KF, NaHCO\(_3\), H\(_2\)O\(_2\), THF/MeOH, 1 : 1, 36–48% over 2 steps; (e) PDC, molecular sieve; (f) MeMgBr, THF, –10 to –25°C, ~72%, anti and syn isomers separated by chromatography; (g) TPAP, NMO, 4A molecular sieve, CH\(_2\)Cl\(_2\), –10°C-room temp, 95%.
completed the syntheses. The other two stereoisomers were obtained with the same sequences of reactions from (S)-carvone. With all stereoisomers available, the insect-produced compound was shown to have the (1R*,2S*) relative configuration, the two enantiomers of which did not resolve by chiral stationary phase chromatography. However, bioassays showed that the natural compound was almost certainly the (1R,2S)-enantiomer.

The key step in a second synthesis of the racemic pheromone was a regio- and stereoregulated intramolecular 4-exo-tet-cyclization of a cis-epoxynitrile precursor 285 (Scheme 44).\(^\text{107a}\) The cis-stereocchemistry of the epoxide was important to ensure high regioselectivity, allowing preferential formation of the cyclobutane ring. Thus, nitrile 283 was alkylated with MOM-protected 2-bromoethanol, then epoxidized with m-CPBA. Use of MOM rather than other more bulky protecting groups proved crucial to later steps in the synthesis. Optimization of the epoxide opening and cyclization conditions resulted in a 60% yield of 286, with a 79 : 21 ratio favoring the desired trans product. Protection of the resulting alcohol, conversion of the nitrile to an aldehyde, and Wittig reaction then installed the precursor to the third side chain, giving 289. Removal of the TBDMS protecting group, PDC oxidation, and removal of the ketal protecting group gave the diketone 290. Double Wittig reaction with Ph3P==CH2 then gave a precursor with the two terminal methylene groups installed. However, the final MOM protecting group could not be removed cleanly under a variety of conditions. Instead, the MOM group was removed from diketone 290 by treatment with an acid catalyst in MeOH, followed by hydrolysis of the resulting acetal to the hemiacetal 291. Double Wittig reaction of this precursor with a large excess of Ph3P==CH2 then gave the penultimate precursor (1R,2S)-282, and acetylation completed the synthesis. In an alternative sequence, all three protecting groups were removed from 289 to give the ketonediol, followed by selective acetylation of the primary alcohol, oxidation of the secondary alcohol, and double Wittig olefination. The latter step resulted in partial removal of the acetate ester, which was easily reinstalled with acetic anhydride, Et3N, and DMAP. This alternative sequence (not shown) produced a similar yield from 289 as the first series of steps.

With a synthesis of the racemic pheromone in hand, the authors then carried out kinetic resolutions of intermediate 286 with lipase PS or PFL and vinyl acetate to provide the enantiomers of 286, each in >98% ee, which were then carried through to the final products by the route described above. Both enzymes selectively esterified the (1R,2S,5R)-enantiomer of alcohol 286.\(^\text{107b}\)

In an entirely different approach, Schmidt et al. used a TiCl4-promoted [2 + 2] cycladdition to construct trisubstituted cyclobutane intermediate 294 in 96% yield and an anti/syn ratio of 2 : 1 (Scheme 45).\(^\text{108}\) Reduction of the esters and protection of the resulting alcohols, followed by a modified Tamao-Fleming oxidation gave diprotected triol 297. Several straightforward steps then gave advanced intermediate 299. At any stage the diastereomers were apparently separable, so the diastereomers could be carried forward as a mixture or as separate isomers. However, the synthesis does not yet seem to have been carried forward to completion.\(^\text{108b}\)

### 3.2.3 Pheromones from cyclopentany1 and cyclopentenyl monoterpenols

To date, three cyclopentane-based pheromone structures have been found (Fig. 8), all from members of the longtailed mealybug *Pseudococcus longispinus* and the grape mealybug *Pseudococcus maritimus.*

![Fig. 8 Mealybug pheromones with cyclopentany1 and cyclopentenyl substructures.](image-url)

Scheme 46  Millar group’s first synthesis of longtailed mealybug pheromone via 2,3-Wittig rearrangement. Reagents and conditions: (a) polyphosphoric acid, 100 °C; (b) LiAlH4, ether, 89%; (c) KH, THF, Bu3SnCH2J, 91%; (d) BuLi, THF, –100 °C, 25%; (e) PCC, CH2Cl2; (f) MeOCH2PPh2Cl, BuLi, THF, 53% over 2 steps; (g) \(\text{H}_2\text{O}\), 86%; (h) NaBH4, EtOH, 95%; (i) AcCl, pyridine, ether, 77%.

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mealybug genus *Pseudococcus*. The pheromones of the long-tailed and obscure mealybugs were the first members of their respective terpene skeletal classes to be found anywhere in nature, whereas the alcohol portion of the grape mealybug pheromone had been previously found in the secretions of a carrion beetle. The pattern of methylation of the longtailed mealybug pheromone suggests that it may be derived from geraniol, whereas the grape and obscure mealybug pheromones may be derived from cyclization of lavandulol to a cyclobutane intermediate followed by ring expansion and methyl migration.

*Longtailed mealybug pheromone.* The pheromone of the longtailed mealybug, *Pseudococcus longispinus*, was identified by Millar and coworkers as 2-(1,5,5-trimethylcyclopent-2-en-1-yl)ethyl acetate. The first synthesis of the racemate used a 2,3-Wittig rearrangement to set the two contiguous quarternary centers while simultaneously placing the double bond correctly (Scheme 46).

Reduction and O-alkylation with Bu3SnCH2I, followed by transmetallation with BuLi at low temperature, gave the rearranged cyclopentenol, albeit in low yield. A straightforward series of reactions extended the chain by one carbon via aldehyde, followed by reduction of the aldehyde and acetylation.

The second synthesis used an entirely different strategy to construct the cyclopentane ring from an acyclic precursor, via insertion of a carbene into a methine C–H bond to close the ring (Scheme 47). Thus, β-ketoester, from γ-alkylation of methylacetoacetate with isobutyl iodide, was converted to diazo ester. Rh-catalyzed cyclization proceeded in excellent yield, followed by alkylation of the resulting ketoester with methyl iodide to complete the assembly of the vicinal quarternary carbons. Conversion of the ketone of to the enol trflate and Pd-catalyzed reduction placed the double bond, giving . The remainder of the synthesis used the same series of steps described above, i.e., one-carbon extension of the side chain, reduction of the resulting aldehyde, and acetylation, producing >5 g of the racemic pheromone.

To encourage commercialization of the pheromone, a shorter 6-step sequence was then developed (Scheme 48). The first two steps were the same as those used in the first synthesis, but then instead of using a 2,3-Wittig rearrangement, an Ireland-Claisen rearrangement was used. This produced the...
complete carbon skeleton of the pheromone, in contrast to the
2,3-Wittig rearrangement route which required several extra
steps to add an additional carbon. The Ireland-Claisen rear-
rangement of $319$ proceeded smoothly through the silyl ketene
acetal $320$ to give $g, d$-unsaturated carboxylic acid $321$ in
respectable yield. LiAlH$_4$ reduction of acid $321$ and acetylation
completed the synthesis.

Bailey and Bakonyi recently developed a concise synthesis of
$300$ based on intramolecular carbolithiation (Scheme 49). Alkylation of the lithium enolate derived from $322$ gave ketone $323$. When standard Wittig reaction conditions were employed to convert $323$ to $324$, a large quantity of alkyne was generated as a side product by dehydrohalogenation of the vinyl iodide. In contrast, Utimoto’s ole
nation procedure, using a CH$_2$Br$_2$–TiCl$_4$–Zn system with catalytic PbCl$_2$ cleanly afforded ($Z$)-1-iodo-4,4,5-trimethyl-1,5-hexadiene $324$. The key 5-exo-trig ring closure via lithiation, cyclization, and trapping the resulting anion with paraformaldehyde proceeded efficiently (65%) in one pot to give $311$, and acetylation completed the synthesis.

The Reddy group developed a short and efficient synthesis of
$300$ based on ring-closing metathesis (Scheme 50). The overall strategy is similar to the total synthesis of racemic her-
bertenediol. Thus, olefination of sterically hindered ketone $327$ led to $\alpha,\beta$-unsaturated ester $328$. Because the Wittig reaction and its Horner–Wadsworth–Emmons variant were not successful, a two-step Meyer–Schuster rearrangement was utilized for the desired transformation. DIBAL reduction, followed by Hg-promoted vinylation gave allyl vinyl ether $330$. Treatment of $330$ with DIBAL at $−40 \, ^\circ\mathrm{C}$ led to clean Claisen rearrangement and in situ reduction of the resulting aldehyde to give the key intermediate $331$. Acetylation and ring-closing metathesis then afforded the target $300$. Alternatively, alcohol $331$ was subjected to ring-closing metathesis followed by acetylation to give $300$ in slightly lower yield over the two steps (53 vs. 63%).

The Reddy group then modified the synthesis to prepare both enantiomers of the pheromone (Scheme 51). Thus, racemic alcohol $331$ was esterified with Harada’s camphorsultam phthalic (CSP) acid to produce a mixture of diastereomers $333$ and $334$, en route to synthesis of the ($R$)- and ($S$)-enantiomers of the longtailed mealybug pheromone $300$. Reagents and conditions: (a) dicyclohexylcarbodiimide, DMAP, CSP acid, CH$_2$Cl$_2$. The key steps are highlighted in the scheme.
which were separated by preparative HPLC. The relative and absolute configurations of 334 were determined through X-ray crystal structure analysis, revealing that the chiral center in the intermediate had the (R)-configuration. Each enantiomer was then hydrolyzed and converted to the respective pheromone enantiomers. In field trials, the (S)-(+)-enantiomer was highly attractive to male mealybugs, indicating that this was almost certainly the insect-produced enantiomer. The (R)-enantiomer was neither attractive nor inhibitory, so the racemic pheromone is entirely sufficient for practical purposes.

Grape mealybug pheromone. The sex pheromone of the grape mealybug, Pseudococcus maritimus, was identified by the Millar group as trans-a-necrodyl isobutyrate 301. Because the insect is difficult to maintain in culture, it took several years to obtain enough purified pheromone to determine the structure by microprobe NMR. Furthermore, the pheromone was produced in very small quantities so gas chromatography coupled to electroantennogram detection had to be used to locate the pheromone as a small peak in a complex background. The core monoterpene alcohol structure trans-a-necrodol 342 had been previously identified from a carrion beetle, and synthesized several times. Scheme 52 summarizes the synthesis reported by the Millar group, which combined and optimized elements from previous syntheses of necrodol isomers, including a

![Scheme 52](image)

Scheme 52  Synthesis of the racemic grape mealybug pheromone 301. Reagents and conditions: (a) Br2, CHCl3; (b) NaH, THF, 335; (c) NaI, AcOH, diglyme, 28% over 3 steps; (d) Me2Zn, Ni(acac)2, THF, then HMPA, MeI, 64%; (e) TiCl4, CH2Br2, Zn, THF, CH2Cl2, 67%; (f) LiAlH4, Et2O, 97%; (g) Li, ethylenediamine, 65%; (h) isobutyryl chloride, Et3N, DMAP (cat.), CH2Cl2, 93%.

![Scheme 53](image)

Scheme 53  Synthesis of the (1R,4R)- and (1S,4S)-enantiomers of the grape mealybug pheromone 301. Reagents and conditions: (a) NaBH4, EtOH; (b) vinyl acetate, Amano AK lipase; (c) K2CO3, MeOH; (d) DMSO, (COCl)2, Et3N, CH2Cl2.
diastereoselective synthesis of β-necrodol \(341\), \(342\) and an efficient isomerization of β-necrodol to α-necrodol \(342\), \(343\) the core structure of the pheromone \(301\). Thus, alkylation of ethyl acetocetate \(336\) with bromide \(335\) followed by intramolecular Knoevenagel condensation gave \(332\), followed by regioselective decarboxylation to ketoester \(338\). Conjugate addition of dimethylzinc to \(338\) with nickel catalysis, and trapping the resulting enolate with methyl iodide established the \(trans\)-relative stereochemistry at C1 and C3 \(339\). Methylation under neutral conditions using Zn/CH\(_2\)Br\(_2\)/TiCl\(_4\) \(\text{ref. 96}\) followed by LiAlH\(_4\) reduction gave trans-β-necrodol \(341\). Upon brief exposure to lithium ethylenediamide (LEDA), the \(exo\) double bond of \(341\) isomerized to the trisubstituted endo \(end\) double bond to give \(trans\)-α-necrodol \(342\) as the kinetic product. Timing of this transformation was crucial because prolonged treatment resulted in further isomerization of \(342\) to the thermodynamically most stable tetrasubstituted alkene. The selectivity in the isomerization presumably arose from the orientation of the hydroxymethyl group, which shielded one of the two diastereotopic faces of \(341\) and induced the allylic deprotonation to proceed across the more accessible face. The synthesis was completed by esterification with isobutyryl chloride.

The synthesis was readily adapted to produce both enantiomers of the pheromone via lipase-catalyzed kinetic resolution of the alcohol \(343\) generated by reduction of ketone \(339\) (Scheme 53), as previously described. \(123\) With both enantiomers in hand, the insect-produced pheromone was determined to be a 85:15 mixture of the \((R,R)\)- and \((S,S)\)-enantiomers. Nevertheless, in bioassays, the more easily made racemate was highly attractive to male mealybugs and satisfactory for detection and monitoring of this insect.

**Obscure mealybug pheromone.** The sex pheromone of the obscure mealybug, *Pseudococcus viburni*, was identified by the Millar group as \((1R*,2R*,3S*)\)-1-acetoxyethyl-2,3,4,4-tetramethylocyclopentane \(302\). \(124\) The small amount of purified material was insufficient to determine the relative stereochemistry and so the first synthesis was designed to be nonstereoselective, in order to produce all four possible diastereomers as standards so that the relative stereochemistry could be determined. \(125\) After the relative stereochemistry was conclusively assigned as \((1R*,2R*,3S*)\), modification of the second step to make it diastereoselective gave a preponderance of the desired diastereomer (Scheme 54). \(124\) Thus, cyclization of cheap isobutyl methacrylate \(345\) in hot polyphosphoric acid gave trisubstituted cyclopentenone \(346\) in multigram quantities. Conjugate addition of Me\(_2\)CuLi, quenching the resulting enolate at \(-78\) °C with a chelating proton donor (ethyl salicylate), \(21\) produced the thermodynamically disfavored cis-isomer \(347\) as the major product (\(cis\)-\(trans = 72:28\)). Methylation with no epimerization at C-2 using Zn/CH\(_2\)Br\(_2\)/TiCl\(_4\), \(96\) followed by hydroboration/oxidation gave alcohol \(349\) with the wrong configuration at C-1. After oxidation to aldehyde \(350\), base-catalyzed epimerization readily inverted the configuration, followed by reduction back to alcohol \(349\) and acetylation to give \((1R*,2R*,3S*)\)-302.

Because this synthesis gave only modest \(cis\)-\(trans\) selectivity during establishment of the relative stereochemistry at C-2 and C-3 \((346 \rightarrow 347)\), and because the desired stereochemistry was \(cis\), an improved synthesis based on stereoselective reduction of a tetrasubstituted alkene was developed (Scheme 55). \(126\) Thus, reaction of \((E)\)-crotonyl chloride \(351\) with 2-methylbutane \(352\) in the presence of AlCl\(_3\) gave cyclopentenone \(353\), presumably via acylation of the alkene generated in * situ* by hydride transfer from the isooalkane followed by Nazarov cyclization of the divinyketal intermediate. \(127\) The \(cis\) relative stereochemistry at C-2 and C-3 was set by rhodium-catalyzed catalytic hydrogenation of tetrasubstituted alkene \(353\) \((cis\)-\(trans = 95:5\)), following general conditions developed by Paquette and coworkers. \(128\) The synthesis was then completed as described in Scheme 54 above.

The insect-produced compound was determined to be the \((1S,2S,3R*)\)-enantiomer by lipase-catalyzed kinetic resolution...
of the racemate, followed by vibrational circular dichroism analysis to assign the absolute stereochemistry of each enantiomer. The assignment was subsequently confirmed by enantioselective synthesis of the natural \((1S,2S,3R)\)-enantiomer by Hashimoto and coworkers starting from known carboxylic acid, prepared from prenyl alcohol in two steps (Scheme 56). The stereocenter at C-3 was established by asymmetric methylation of, directed by Evans' chiral auxiliary. Reductive cleavage of the chiral auxiliary, and Swern oxidation followed by Wittig olefination in one pot produced \(\gamma\)-alkyl-\(\alpha,\beta\)-unsaturated ester. The stereocenter at C-2 was established by diastereoselective conjugate addition of an organocopper reagent to. After several failed attempts, Yamamoto's method using Me$_2$CuLi/TMSiCl in CH$_2$Cl$_2$ gave the desired product with complete diastereoselectivity, rationalized by a Felkin-Anh type transition state model. Compound was ozonized with a reductive workup to afford alcohol, followed by tritylation. The stereocenter at C-1 was established in the final cyclization step. A single stereoisomer was obtained, probably due to the greater thermodynamic stability of as compared to the corresponding epimer. DIBAL reduction of ester and acetylation of the resulting alcohol gave \((1S,2S,3R)\)-302.

The Reddy group subsequently reported an efficient synthesis of the \((1R,2R,3S)\)-enantiomer from commercial \(-\)-pantolactone (Scheme 57). Thus, benzyl-protected lactol was converted into \(\alpha,\beta\)-unsaturated ester by Wittig olefination and tosylation of the resulting alcohol. The two chiral centers at C-1 and C-2 were installed in one pot by a tandem conjugate addition/cyclization reaction, giving 366. The alcohol from LiAlH$_4$ reduction of ester was protected with the TBDPS group, followed by removal of the benzyl group, oxidation of the resulting secondary alcohol to ketone, and Tebbe methylenation, furnishing alkene. Hydrogenation of the exocyclic double bond using Wilkinson's catalyst established the chiral center diastereoselectively giving 370. Deprotection and acetylation of the resulting alcohol gave \((1R,2R,3S)\)-302.
3.3 Polyketide pheromones of pine bast scales

As their names suggest, pine bast scales in the genus *Matsucoccus* develop exclusively on pine, and their pheromones are markedly different than those of other scale and mealybug species. Specifically, the pattern of methylation for all of the five pheromone compounds identified from pine bast scales clearly indicates that they are products of the polyketide rather than the terpenoid biosynthetic pathway. As might be expected for pheromones of congeneric species, the structures share a

Fig. 9 Structures of pheromone components of pine bast scales.

Scheme 58 Cywin *et al.* enantioselective synthesis of (6R,10R)-371 and (6R,10S)-371. Reagents and conditions: (a) TBDMSiCl, imidazole, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C; (b) MeMgBr, CuI, THF; (c) PhCH₂OCH₂Cl, i-PrNEt₂, LiAlH₄; (d) TBAF, THF, 58% over 4 steps; (e) Swern oxidation; (f) MeMgBr, THF, then e, 85% over 3 steps; (g) MeC≡CMgBr, THF; (h) LiAlH₄, THF; 81% over 2 steps; (i) 2-(chloromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-4,4-dimethyloxazole, KH, DME; (j) n-BuLi, THF, −78 °C; (k) p-MeOPhCH₂Cl, KH, DME; (l) TFA, H₂O, 24 h, then LiAlH₄, THF, 44% over 4 steps; (m) TosCl, pyridine; (n) 1M aq. Ce(NH₄)₂(NO₃)₆, MeCN; (o) NaOMe, MeOH; 74% over 3 steps; (p) Na, NH₃, 78 °C; (q) MeOCl(O)NSO₂NEt₃, benzene, 50 °C; 92% over 2 steps; (r) (S)-2,4-dimethylpentylMgBr, CuI, THF, 47%; (r') (R)-2,4-dimethylpentylMgBr, CuI, THF, 47%; (s) [n-Pr]₄NRuO₄, NMO, 4A sieves, CH₂Cl₂, 98%.

Scheme 59 Cywin’s enantioselective synthesis of (3S,7R)-372 and (3R,7R)-372. Reagents and conditions: (a) (S)-2-methylbutylMgBr, CuI, THF, 60%; (a') (R)-2-methylbutylMgBr, CuI, THF, 58%; (b) [n-Pr]₄NRuO₄, NMO, 4A sieves, CH₂Cl₂.
common structural motif on the left hand side of the molecules as drawn in Fig. 9, with variable chains appended on the right hand side, and two of the structural pairs vary only in the stereochemistry of one double bond. Because most of the synthetic strategies used to make these compounds have taken advantage of the shared structural motif, the syntheses will be described collectively rather than being broken out by species as was done in earlier sections.

Scheme 60  Preparation and [2,3]-Wittig rearrangement of tertiary bis-allylic ether 390. Reagents and conditions: (a) LiAlH₄, 98%; (b) LiAlH₄, 89%; (c) 2-(chloromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-4,4-dimethyloxazole, KH, 90%; (d) KH, 100%.

Scheme 61  Shi’s enantioselective synthesis of all four stereoisomers of 371. Reagents and conditions: (a) n-BuLi, THF/HMPA = 7 : 3, −100 °C, 0.5 h, 95%; (b) (S)-camphanyl chloride and (R)-camphanyl chloride, recrystallization; (c) TFA, H₂O, THF, 25 °C, 24 h; (d) LiAlH₄, THF, 0 °C, 4 h, 87% for 2 steps; (e) TosCl, pyridine, CH₂Cl₂, −30 °C, 48 h; (f) NaOMe, MeOH, 0 °C, 2 h, 63% for 2 steps; (g) (S)-2,4-dimethylpentylMgBr, CuI, THF; (g') (R)-2,4-dimethylpentylMgBr, CuI, THF; (h) (n-Pr)₅NRuO₄, NMO, 4A molecular sieves, 25 °C, 0.5 h, 82% for 2 steps for (6R,10R)-371.
The first pine bast scale pheromone was identified by a joint effort among US, Chinese, and Korean scientists as \((2E,4E)\)-4,6,10,12-tetramethyltrideca-2,4-dien-7-one (matsuone) 371, for the red pine bast scale \textit{Matsucoccus resinosae} in the US, and two related and possibly synonymous species indigenous to Asia known as black pine bast scale, \textit{M. matsumurae} in China and \textit{M. matsumurae} in Korea.

Scheme 62  Shi’s geometrically selective synthesis of all the \textit{Matsucoccus} pheromones 371-375 and 399 as racemic and diastereomeric mixtures. Reagents and conditions: (a) TFA, H\(_2\)O, THF, 25 °C, 24 h; (b) LiAlH\(_4\), THF, 0 °C, 4 h, 87% for 2 steps; (c) NaIO\(_4\), dioxane:H\(_2\)O (1 : 1), room temp, 2 h, 55%; (d) 3,5-dimethylhexylMgBr, THF, room temp, 1 h; (e) 3-methylpentylMgBr, THF, room temp, 1 h; (f) \((E)\)-CH\(_3\)CH=CHBr, t-BuLi, THF, –115 °C, 1 h; (g) Jones’ reagent, 0 °C, 5 min; (h) \((n\)-Pr\(_2\))\(_2\)NRuO\(_4\), NMO, CH\(_2\)Cl\(_2\), room temp, 0.5 h.
thunbergianae in Korea. Subsequently, the sex pheromone of the maritime pine bast scale M. feytaudi, native to Africa and Europe, was identified as a mixture of (8E,10E)-3,7,9-trimethyldeca-8,10-dien-6-one 372 and its (8Z,10E)-isomer 373 (373 is ~3% of 372). The pheromone of the Israeli pine bast scale M. josephi was identified as a 75:25 mixture of (2E,6E,8E)-5,7-dimethyldeca-2,6,8-trien-4-one 374 and its (2E,6Z,8E)-isomer 375. Enantioselective syntheses of stereoisomers of 371, 372, and 374, followed by bioassays or GC comparison with natural pheromones determined the absolute stereochemistry of 371 as (6R,10R)-371, 372 as (3S,7R), and 374 as 5R (Fig. 9). Thus, all these Matuscoccus pheromones share the same (R)-configured ketone motifs, with the remaining parts of the molecules differing and conferring species specificity. The diastereomeric (6R,10S)-371 was also active, whereas the other two diastereomers were not. Similarly, the unnatural diastereomer (3R,7R)-372 was attractive to male M. feytaudi, whereas the other two diastereomers of 372 were inactive. The unnatural (5S)-374 also was not attractive to M. josephi.

Cwyn and coworkers reported the first enantioselective synthesis of two diastereomers of 371, (6R,10R)-371 and (6R,10S)-371 respectively (Scheme 58). The convergent synthesis started from commercially available (S)-(-)-glycidol 376. Routine transformations gave methyl ketone 378. Chelation-controlled addition of propynyl magnesium bromide, followed by LiAlH₄ reduction afforded tertiary allylic alcohol 379 with the desired stereochemistry. O-Alkylation with 2-(2-hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydro-4,4-dimethylloxazole and treatment of the resulting ether 380 with n-BuLi resulted in [2,3]-Wittig rearrangement to give a mixture of 381 (major product) and its (2Z)-isomer (minor product). The mixture was converted to alcohol 382 and its (2Z)-isomer, which were readily separable by flash chromatography. After conversion of 382 to epoxide 383, reductive removal of the (benzoyl)oxyethyl (BOM) protecting group and dehydration using the Burgess protocol installed the second (E)-double bond, giving 384. The copper-catalyzed coupling of (E,E)-diene epoxide 384 with (S)- and (R)-4,4-dimethyl-2-pentynylmagnesium bromide, followed by oxidation, afforded (6R,10R)-371 and (6R,10S)-371. Comparison of the 500 MHz 1H NMR spectra of the two synthetic diastereomers with that of the natural pheromone established the relative stereochemistry of 371 as 6R*,10R* (6,10-syn).

Following the same route, Cwyn and coworkers reported the first enantioselective synthesis of two diastereomers of the

Scheme 63  Mori’s enantioselective synthesis of all four stereoisomers of 372. Reagents and conditions: (a) TsCl, pyridine; (b) LiAlH₄, THF, 79% over 2 steps; (c) O₂, NaHCO₃, MeOH/CH₂Cl₂; (d) Ph₃P=NC(Me)CO₂Et, benzene, 81% over 2 steps; (e) DIBALH, Et₂O, 95%; (f) (iPrO)₄Ti, diethyl L-(-)-tartrate, t-BuOOH, 63%; (g) 3,5-DNDBCly, pyridine, Et₂O, recrystallization, 45%; (h) NaOH, MeOH/THF/H₂O, 98%; (i) Swern oxidation, then d, 87%; (j) Pd₂(dba)₃, CHCl₃, Ph₃P, HCO₂H, Et₃N, dioxane, 78%; (k) TBDMSCI, imidazole, DMF, then e, then i, 81%; (l) (MeO)₂P(O)CH₂CO₂Me, n-BuLi, THF, 96%; (m) DIBALH, Et₂O, 91%; (n) SO₂-pyridine, THF, then LiAlH₄, THF; 59%; (o) TBAF, THF, prep. HPLC, 71%; (p) Swern oxidation, 94%.
major component of the sex pheromone of \( M. \) feytaudi, \((3S,7R)\)-372 and \((3R,7R)\)-372 (Scheme 59).\(^{144}\) The convergent synthesis employed the advanced intermediate described in Scheme 58, epoxide \((2S,3R)\)-384 and \((S\)- and \((R\)-2-methylbutylmagnesium bromide. Comparison of the 500 MHz \( ^1 \)H NMR spectra of the two synthetic diastereomers with that of the natural pheromone established the relative stereochemistry of 372 as \( 3S^*,7R^* \) (3,7-syn), the same as that of matsuone 371.

Shi and coworkers used an analogous diastereoselective [2,3]-Wittig rearrangement of tertiary bisallylic ether 390 to provide a direct entry to conjugated diene systems containing an \((E\)-disubstituted double bond, a stereochemically defined trisubstituted double bond, and a homoallylic hydroxyl group, key structural elements of 371, 372, and 374 (Scheme 60).\(^{137\alpha}\) Rearrangement of easily prepared 390 favored the formation of syn-391 under all reaction conditions, but the ratio of products was clearly influenced by reaction conditions. Use of a lithium base at low temperature with THF/HMPA solvent produced optimum yields of syn-391 (syn-391: 93.6%, anti-391: 6.4%).

This transformation could be applied in two ways. First, carrying out the [2,3]-Wittig rearrangement under the conditions described above gave \((\pm\)-syn-391 in excellent yield, which could be isolated in over 99% purity by recrystallization from ether. Then, derivatization of the racemate with \((S\)-camphanyl chloride gave a mixture of two diastereomers, from which \((2S,3R)\)-393 could be selectively crystallized. Derivatization of racemic \((\pm\)-syn-391 with \((R\)-camphanyl chloride similarly gave \((2R,3S)\)-393 in > 99% de. The two enantiomers were then transformed to epoxides \((2S,3R)\)-384 and \((2R,3S)\)-384, respectively. The copper-catalyzed coupling of the epoxides with \((S\)-
and (R)-2,4-dimethylpentylmagnesium bromide, respectively, followed by oxidation, afforded the four stereoisomers of 371 (Scheme 61). In the presence of two equivalents of KH, the tertiary allylic alcohol 389 was alkylation to afford ether 390, which without isolation underwent the desired [2,3]−Wittig rearrangement to give a mixture of four racemic, conjugated dienes (syn-391 : anti-391 : syn-392 : anti-392 = 7 : 1 : 1 : 1). The mixture was converted directly into the

This transformation was then extended to generate the (E,E)- and (Z,E)-conjugated dienes in one pot, providing an easy access to the geometric isomers of all three of the Matsucoccus pheromones (Scheme 62). This transformation was then extended to generate the (E,E)- and (Z,E)-conjugated dienes in one pot, providing an easy access to the geometric isomers of all three of the Matsucoccus pheromones (Scheme 62). In the presence of two equivalents of KH, the tertiary allylic alcohol 389 was alkylation to afford ether 390, which without isolation underwent the desired [2,3]-Wittig rearrangement to give a mixture of four racemic, conjugated dienes (syn-391 : anti-391 : syn-392 : anti-392 = 7 : 1 : 1 : 1). The mixture was converted directly into the

Scheme 67  Mori’s improved synthesis of (6R,10R)-371. Reagents and conditions: (a) (S)-2,4-dimethylpentylMgBr, CuBr, THF, 96%; (b) n-BuLi, Mes2O, THF; (c) LiBEt3H, THF, 73% for 2 steps.

Scheme 68  Lin and Xu’s enantioselective synthesis of all four stereoisomers of 371. Reagents and conditions: (a) MeMgI, Et2O, 98%; (b) PCC, CH2Cl2, room temp, 96%; (c) i. MeMgI, Et2O, ii. n-BuLi, THF, −20 to 0 °C; iii. CIPO(OEt)2, TMEDA, −20 °C to room temp, 95%; (d) Li, EtNH2, −30 °C, quant.; (e) O2, CH2Cl2, −78 °C, then Ph3P; (f) TESCl, imidazole, DMF, quant.; (g) O2, CH2Cl2, −78 °C, then Ph3P, room temp; (h) Ph3P==C(Me)CO2Et, PhMe, 80 °C, 36 h, 76% over 2 steps; (i) Ph2P(O)Et, n-BuLi, THF, −78 °C, 95%; (j) DIBAL, Et2O, −78 °C, 74%; (k) NaH, DMF, 40 °C, 65%; (l) Swern oxidation, 90%.
corresponding mixture of four diene diols 394 and 395. Periodate cleavage then afforded a mixture of aldehydes 396 and 397 (4:1 ratio), which were separated by flash chromatography. Addition of the appropriate Grignard or lithium reagents, followed by oxidation, yielded geometrically pure final products. This geometrically selective synthesis provided the naturally occurring sex pheromone components 371-375, along with 399, the geometric isomer of 371, each as a racemic and diastereomeric mixture. Whereas 373 and 375 were found as trace components in the insects, 399 has not yet been reported as a natural product.

Mori’s synthesis of all four stereoisomers of 372, the major component of the sex pheromone of M. feytaudi, built up the chain from the opposite end (Scheme 63). Thus, synthesis of (3R,7S)-372 started from (S)-(−)-citronellol 400, which provided the required chiral center at C-3 in 372. Routine transformations led to allylic alcohol 403. Sharpless asymmetric epoxidation of 403 with diethyl tartrate, formation and recrystallization of the enantiomerically pure, oxidation of the resulting epoxycarbinol 404 and Horner–Wittig olefination gave epoxy-ester 406. Palladium-catalyzed reductive cleavage of the epoxide gave 407, establishing the chiral center at C-7 in 372. Standard chain elongation steps and removal of the terminal, allylic functional group completed the carbon skeleton, and deprotection and oxidation of the resulting alcohol completed the synthesis, giving (3R,7S)-372. Following the same route, (3R,7R)-372 was synthesized from (S)-(−)-citronellol 400 employing diethyl tartrate in the Sharpless asymmetric epoxidation step. Similarly, (3S,7R)-372 and (3S,7S)-372 were synthesized from (R)-(−)-citronellol (R)-400, employing diethyl tartrate and diethyl tartrate in the asymmetric epoxidation steps, respectively.

Following a similar route, Mori’s group synthesized (6S,10S)-matsuone 371 from (S)-citronellol (S)-400 and (6R,10R)-371 from (R)-citronellol (R)-400 (Scheme 64).143 Mori’s group developed an improved synthesis of (3S,7R)-372 from 420, a versatile building block in pheromone synthesis (Scheme 65).144 The epoxy alcohol 420 was prepared from optically active epoxide 419, derived from pig pancreatic lipase (PPL)-catalyzed asymmetric hydrolysis of meso-diacetate 418.145 Stereoselective cleavage of the epoxy ring with trimethylaluminum gave 421 as the major regioisomer, which was converted to epoxide 422 by selective tosylation of the primary alcohol and base induced closure of the epoxide ring.

The copper-catalyzed coupling of epoxide 422 with (S)-2-methylbutylmagnesium bromide gave 423, which after several standard operations afforded 424, which was carried through to (3S,7R)-372 as described in Mori’s previous synthesis (Scheme 66).

Mori’s group used a similar route to synthesize (6R,10R)-371 (Scheme 67).144 Thus, reaction of epoxide 422 with (S)-2,4-dimethylpentylmagnesium bromide gave alcohol 426. An improvement over the previous synthesis was a more efficient removal of the primary hydroxyl group of 427, which was converted to the corresponding mesylate, and then reduced with lithium triethylborohydride (Super-hydride) to 428.

Lin and Xu developed enantioselective syntheses of all four stereoisomers of matsuone 371 from (R)- or (S)-citronellal, which provided the chiral center at C-10 in 371 (Scheme 68).147 Several straightforward steps converted (R)-citronellal 429 to aldehyde (R)-414, which was then subjected to asymmetric Aldol reactions to insert the second stereocenter. The (R)- or (S)-configuration at C-6 of 371 was determined in the transition state by employing the (Z)- or (E)-boronates 432 and 433, respectively. After protection of the hydroxyl group, alcohol 434 was subjected to ozonolysis and Wittig reaction to afford α,β-unsaturated ester 436. Reaction of 436 with the anion of ethyldiphenylphosphine oxide gave the keto-phophonate 437, which was reduced with DIBAL to give alcohol 438 with good selectivity (threo-erythro = 6:1). The threo isomer underwent

Scheme 69 Lin and Xu’s enzyme-based synthesis of (6R,10R)-371. Reagents and conditions: (a) vinyl acetate, pig pancreatic lyase, wet THF, 28 °C; (b) TosCl, pyridine, 92%; (c) LiAlH4, Et2O, reflux, 90%; (d) Ph3P, CBr4, CH2Cl2, 79%; (e) Mg, Et2O, reflux, then (HCHO),i, reflux, 74%; (f) Ph3P, CBr4, CH2Cl2, 82%; (g) TBDPSiCl, imidazole, DMF, 98%; (h) K2CO3, MeOH, 40 °C, 95%; (i) Jones oxidation, 0 °C, ii. CH2N2, Et2O, 0 °C, 83%; (j) i. LDA, THF, 0 °C; ii. PhSeBr, −78 °C, iii. H2O2, pyridine, CH2Cl2, 85%; (k) RhCl3, H2O2, EtOH, reflux, quant.; (l) Ph3P(OET), n-ButLi, −78 °C, 98%; (m) NaBH4, CeCl3, EtOH, −78 °C, 92%; (n) NaH, DMF, 40 °C, 90%; (o) Swern oxidation; (p) (S)-1-bromo-3,5-dimethylhexane, Mg, THF, Cul, reflux, 55% over 2 steps; (q) Swern oxidation, 92%.
base-induced elimination and concomitant deprotection to give, after oxidation, the desired pheromone \((6R,10R)-371\). The other three stereoisomers were prepared in the same manner from alcohol \((3S,4R,7R)-434\) and the corresponding alcohols from \((S)\)-citronellal \((S)-429\).

Lin and Xu reported a second approach to the synthesis of \((6R,10R)-371\), in which both chiral centers of \(371\) were controlled via manipulation of a bifunctional building block \(440\), obtained by the lipase-catalyzed transesterification of \(meso-2,4\)-dimethyl-1,5-propanediol \(439\) (Scheme 69). Thus, bromide \(443\) was prepared from \(440\) in five routine steps. Synthesis of the second required synthon \(450\) also started with \(440\). Thus, methyl ester \(445\), obtained from \(440\) in three steps, was subjected to phenylselenenylation and oxidative elimination to afford alkene \(447\), along with a small amount of isomeric \(446\), which was converted quantitatively to \(447\) by refluxing in anhydrous ethanol with catalytic \(\text{RhCl}_3\). Treatment of the \(\alpha,\beta\)-unsaturated ester \(447\) with the lithium salt of ethyl diphenylphosphine oxide, followed by regioselective reduction with \(\text{NaBH}_4/\text{CeCl}_3\) furnished \(449\) with good selectivity (threo–erythro = 4:1). After removal of the erythro isomer by flash chromatography, the three isomer underwent base-induced elimination and concomitant deprotection to give the diene \(374\). Oxidation to the aldehyde, copper-catalyzed reaction with the Grignard reagent derived from \(443\), and Swern oxidation gave \((6R,10R)-371\).

Zegelman and coworkers reported a relatively short synthesis of \((\pm)/\text{C}_6\)-374 and \((\pm)/\text{C}_6\)-375, the racemates of both

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{CHO} + \text{Br}_2\text{Et}_2\text{CO} & \rightarrow \text{CHO} + \text{Br}_2\text{Et}_2\text{CO} & a, b, c, d, e, f \\
\text{CHO} + \text{OTBS} & \rightarrow \text{CHO} + \text{OTBS} & a, b, c, d, e, f \\
\text{CHO} + \text{PPhBr} & \rightarrow \text{CHO} + \text{PPhBr} & a, b, c, d, e, f \\
\end{align*}
\]

**Scheme 70** Zegelman’s synthesis of \((\pm)/\text{C}_6\)-374 and \((\pm)/\text{C}_6\)-375. Reagents and conditions: (a) \(\text{Zn}–\text{Cu}, \text{Et}_2\text{O}, \text{room temp}, 84\%\); (b) TBDMSiCl, imidazole, DMF, room temp; (c) DIBAL, PhMe, \(-78^\circ\text{C}, 63\%\) over 2 steps; (d) \(n\)-BuLi, THF, \(0–10^\circ\text{C}, 72\%\); (e) TBAF, THF, room temp; (f) PCC, NaOAc, CH2Cl2, room temp, 54\% over 2 steps.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{CHO} + \text{CO}_2\text{Et} & \rightarrow \text{CHO} + \text{CO}_2\text{Et} & a, b, c, d, e, f \\
\text{CHO} + \text{PPhBr} & \rightarrow \text{CHO} + \text{PPhBr} & a, b, c, d, e, f \\
\end{align*}
\]

**Scheme 71** Zegelman’s modified synthesis of \((\pm)/\text{C}_6\)-374 and \((\pm)/\text{C}_6\)-375. Reagents and conditions: (a) PCC, NaOAc, CH2Cl2, room temp, 62\%; (b) HO(CH2)2OH, PTSA, CHCl3, reflux; (c) DIBAL, PhMe, \(-78^\circ\text{C}, 48\%\) for 2 steps; (d) \(n\)-BuLi, THF, \(0–10^\circ\text{C}, 72\%\); (e) aq. HCl, THF, room temp, 51\% over 2 steps.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{CHO} + \text{CO}_2\text{Et} & \rightarrow \text{CHO} + \text{CO}_2\text{Et} & a, b, c, d, e, f \\
\text{CHO} + \text{PPhBr} & \rightarrow \text{CHO} + \text{PPhBr} & a, b, c, d, e, f \\
\end{align*}
\]

**Scheme 72** Mori’s enantioselective synthesis of \((R)/\text{C}_6\)-374. Reagents and conditions: (a) PivCl, pyridine, CH2Cl2, 93\%; (b) TBAF, HF, H2O/THF, 95\%; (c) Swern oxidation; (d) Ph3P=CH(Me)CO2Et, THF, 63% over 2 steps; (e) Me3Al (10 equiv.), H2O (6 equiv.), CH2Cl2, 89\%; (f) TBDMSiCl, imidazole, DMF, 91\%; (g) DIBAL, Et2O, 88\%; (h) Swern oxidation, (i) (EtO)2P(O)CH2CO2Et, n-BuLi, THF, 61% over 2 steps; (j) DIBAL, Et2O, 98\%; (k) \(n\)-BuLi, Mes2O, THF; (l) LiBEt3H, THF; (m) TBAF, THF, SiO2–AgNO3 chromatography; (n) 3,5-dinitrobenzoyl chloride, pyridine, recrystallization; (o) K2CO3, MeOH/THF; (p) Swern oxidation, 92\%.
components of the sex pheromone of \textit{M. josephi} (Scheme 70).\textsuperscript{149} Reformatsky reaction between crotonaldehyde 451 and ethyl 2-bromopropanoate 452 gave hydroxyester 453, which was protected and reduced to aldehyde 454. Wittig reaction of 454 with the anion from allylic phosphonium salt 455 gave a mixture of (\textit{E})- and (\textit{Z})-isomers. Removal of the TBDMS protecting group followed by oxidation with pyridinium chlorochromate produced a mixture of (\textit{\textpm})-374 and (\textit{\textpm})-375 in a ratio of 56 : 44.

A modified route led straight from the Wittig product to the pheromone (Scheme 71).\textsuperscript{149}

Bioassays showed that pheromonal activity was due mainly to the \textit{E}-isomer (\textit{\textpm})-374, whereas the minor \textit{Z}-isomer (\textit{\textpm})-375 was of low activity, but not inhibitory.

Mori and Amaike reported an enantioselective synthesis of both enantiomers of 374 (Scheme 72),\textsuperscript{150} which used many of the same steps and synthons as in his syntheses of matsuone 371. Thus, the reactive ends of 420 were interchanged by sequential protection of the free hydroxyl and deprotection of the other hydroxyl, followed by Swern oxidation and Horner–Wittig reaction. In a key step, cleavage of the epoxy ring of 461 with trimethylaluminum in the presence of a small amount of

Scheme 73  Watanabe's concise syntheses of 371, 372, and 374 as racemic and diastereomeric mixtures. Reagents and conditions: (a) 1-propenylmagnesium bromide, 95%; (b) TMSCN, TMSOTf, 56% (467 : 468 = 5.3 : 1); (c) Et3O, then H3O+, 70%; (c') Et2O, then H3O+, 73%; (d) DIBAL, then H3O+. (e) (\textit{E})-1-propenyllithium, THF, \textpm 78°C, 67% over 2 steps; (f) PDC, DMF, 49%.

Scheme 74  The Mori group's syntheses of (6\textit{R},10\textit{R})-371, (3\textit{S},7\textit{R})-372, and (5\textit{R})-374 from one key intermediate. Reagents and conditions: (a) TBDMSiCl, imidazole, 98%; (b) DIBAL, hexanes/CH2Cl2; (c) Ph3P=(C(Me)CO2Et, benzene, 83% over 2 steps (\textit{E}–\textit{Z} = 95 : 5); (d) Ph2P(O)Et, n-BuLi, THF, 98%; (e) NaBH4, CeCl3 7H2O, EtOH, then silica gel chromatography, 66%; (f) NaH, DMF; (g) TBAF, THF, 90% over 2 steps; (h) PDC, DMF; (i) HNMe(OMe)\textsubscript{2}HCl, EDC·HCl, DMAP, disopropylethylamine, CH2Cl2, 38% over 2 steps; (j) (S)-3,5-dimethylhexylMgBr, THF, 89%; (k) (S)-3-methylpentylMgBr, THF, 90%; (l) (\textit{E})-propenylMgBr, THF, 80%.
resulted in the recovery of 396 (and 469 a and mealybugs, and potentially for direct control. In practice, pheromones can be used for detection and sampling of scales mealybug pheromones resulting secondary alcohol a of the two terminal hydroxyls, deprotection and oxidation of the water regio- and stereoselectively placed the chiral methyl group, giving 462 in excellent yield. Chain elongation, removal of the two terminal hydroxyls, deprotection and oxidation of the resulting secondary alcohol afforded (R)-374. (S)-374 was prepared in analogous fashion from the antipode of 460, in turn prepared from 420 in 4 simple steps.

Because the unnatural isomers were not inhibitory, Watanabe developed short syntheses of *Matsucoccus* sex pheromones 371, 372, and 374 as mixtures of isomers for a study of practical pest control (Scheme 73).\(^1\) The key reaction was Lewis acid-mediated S\(_2\)C\(_2\) cyation of symmetric tertiary alcohol 389 to afford common intermediate 467 as the major product, which could be separated from the undesired minor isomer 468 by flash chromatography. Nucleophilic addition of (\(\pm\))-3,5-dimethylhexylxanthium 469 and (\(\pm\))-3-methylpentyllithium 470 followed by aqueous hydrolysis of the resulting imines afforded 371 and 372 respectively, as racemic and diastereomeric mixtures. However, reaction of 467 with (E)-1-propenylxanthium resulted in the recovery of 467, presumably due to the lower nucleophilicity of the vinyl anion. Therefore, 467 was reduced to aldehyde 396, which then underwent nucleophilic addition of (E)-1-propenylxanthium, followed by PDC oxidation to give racemic 374.

Mori’s group developed yet another synthetic route to (6R,10R)-371, (3S,7R)-372, and (5R)-374 with a synthon from the chiral pool, methyl (S)-2-methyl-3-hydroxypropanoate 471 (Scheme 74).\(^2\) The route incorporated a number of steps from previous routes. Thus, several routine steps gave \(\alpha,\beta\)-unsaturated ester 474, which was converted to diene homoallicylic alcohol 450 as described by Lin and Xu (Scheme 69). Two steps converted 450 to the key intermediate, Weinreb amide 479, followed by coupling with appropriate organometallic reagents to give (6R,10R)-371, (3S,7R)-372, and (5R)-374.

Somewhat surprisingly, given the interesting challenges in the syntheses of the pine bast scale pheromones, there have been no further syntheses reported since 2003.

### 4 Practical applications of scale and mealybug pheromones

Pheromones can be used for detection and sampling of scales and mealybugs, and potentially for direct control. In practice, the pheromones are ideal for detection and sampling because they are powerful and species-specific attractants, very small amounts of pheromone (usually a few micrograms) are required per lure, and the pheromone structures are quite stable so that pheromone lures can have field lifetimes of several months or more. Because such small doses of pheromone are required per lure, relatively expensive, multistep syntheses of the pheromones are still feasible. For example, at a dose rate of 20 micrograms per lure, 1 g of pheromone is sufficient for 50 000 lures. Furthermore, in most cases, male scales and mealybugs are insensitive to the presence of the unnatural enantiomers or other stereoisomers, and so less expensive racemic pheromone can be used for most applications. Consequently, pheromone lures for many species are available from commercial suppliers. Furthermore, because the pheromones are species-specific, no special expertise is required to identify the trapped insects; if male scales or mealybugs are detected in a pheromone-baited trap, it is almost certain that they are males of the species that produces that particular pheromone. The one documented exception has been the cross-attraction of the scale *Quadraspidiotus zonatus* to the pheromone of the San Jose scale, *Q. persicius*.\(^3\) Conversely, field trials with composite lures containing the pheromones of citrus, obscure, and longtailed mealybugs showed that there was minimal interference among these pheromones, suggesting that it may be possible to use “generic” mealybug lures that attract several species simultaneously.\(^4\) This may be useful in crops that can be infested with several species simultaneously because the control measures are usually the same no matter what species is present.

In terms of detection, pheromone-baited sticky traps can detect very low level and dispersed populations that would be virtually impossible to find by any other method. For example, the pheromone of the passionvine mealybug was used to show that this species had invaded Florida from the Caribbean islands, but populations were extremely low, possibly as a result of control by natural enemies.\(^5\) Pheromone-baited traps were also used as a sensitive method of tracking the expanding ranges of the invasive vine mealybug as it invaded California vineyards,\(^6\) and the pink hibiscus mealybug in several US states.\(^7\) As a proactive measure against another invasive species, the pheromone of the albopicta scale was identified so that it could be used as a tool for early detection of this insect if it invaded California from Mexico.\(^8\) As a further example of the powerful attraction of these pheromones, when developing protocols for using yellow scale pheromone to detect infestations, lure doses had to be lowered to 1–5 micrograms per lure, both to prevent traps from becoming completely covered with male scales and making them very difficult to count, and because higher doses apparently attracted male scales from substantial distances, providing the false impression that the orchard in which the trap was hung was infested, when the actual infestation might be some distance away.\(^9\)

Pheromone-baited traps have also been used extensively in monitoring established populations of scales and mealybugs, particularly for monitoring the flight phenology of adults as an aid to making control decisions. It has proven more difficult to correlate trap catches with infestation levels to develop economic thresholds that, when exceeded, trigger control measures, for two interlinked reasons. First, as mentioned above, the pheromones are so powerful that they can attract males from some distance away, and second, scales and mealybugs tend to form highly clumped distributions, rather than being randomly distributed throughout a crop. Thus, high trap catches may not necessarily indicate high populations throughout the crop. Nevertheless, by judicious use of lower doses of pheromone to decrease the range of attraction of pheromone lures, in some cases it has been possible to develop good correlations between pheromone trap catches and infestation levels as determined by visual counts or other means.\(^10\) The interested reader is referred to a more extensive discussion of the development of pheromone-baited traps for monitoring purposes.\(^11\)
Pheromones can be used to control insect populations in at least three ways: (1) disruption of mating by permeating the atmosphere of a crop with a pheromone so that males cannot find females, (2) mass trapping, in which sufficient numbers of pheromone-baited traps are deployed to remove a large percentage of males, and (3) attract-and-kill, in which pheromone is mixed with a toxicant in a matrix applied in multiple droplets throughout a crop, so that males that are attracted and contact the droplets are killed. The feasibility of using these three methods for controlling scales and mealybugs hinges on a number of economic and biological factors. First and foremost, if the pheromones cannot be made in multikilo scale at a price that is competitive with other control measures, mating disruption at least will not be economically feasible. For mass trapping and attract-and-kill, which use much smaller quantities of pheromone, the costs of deploying and servicing large arrays of traps or attract-and-kill droplets may still present significant barriers to implementation. For attract-and-kill, there is also the additional requirement that formulations containing a toxicant may be subject to additional registration requirements. A number of other points also must be considered, including:

1. The number of generations per year, and the overall adult activity periods. Clearly the costs and technical issues relating to control of a species with a single generation per year and a relatively short adult activity period will be different than those involved in controlling a multivoltine species that is present for many months.

2. Female scales and mealybugs can live for several months, during which time they will continue to produce pheromone until they are mated. Thus, even if a substantial percentage of the available males is removed, the remaining males may still mate many of the available females because males can mate multiple times.169 Thus, almost all of the males must be removed or otherwise prevented from mating in order to achieve good control.

3. Conversely, adult males live for at most a few days under field conditions.

4. The highly clumped, non-random distribution of scales and mealybugs will also hinder pheromone-based control measures, because males and females will be close together in clumps, particularly in heavy infestations. Thus, males may serendipitously find females.

5. Pheromone formulations must have effective field lifetimes of many weeks. However, these issues are readily dealt with because scale and mealybug pheromones are relatively stable, and longevity of lures or other formulations can be readily adjusted by appropriate choice of release device.

6. The size of the market for any one pheromone is relatively small. That is, the species specificity of pheromones is a major advantage from the viewpoint of nontarget effects, and a major disadvantage because, unlike a broad-spectrum insecticide which is effective against multiple insects on numerous crops, a scale or mealybug pheromone will only affect a single target species.

In practice, mass trapping has only been attempted with the citrus mealybug. Whereas numbers of males were reduced in treated blocks relative to controls, damage levels were unaffected. Furthermore, it appeared that the traps were attracting more males into the treated areas, partially counteracting male removal by the traps.160

Mating disruption was first explored for California red scale in the 1980s,163 and has been followed up in a series of studies in the last decade162 which demonstrated decreased infestation levels and significantly less crop damage in treated areas versus untreated controls. Thus, this system has considerable promise biologically, if the economic hurdles to producing large quantities of the pheromone can be surmounted. Similarly, a mating disruption trial with San Jose scale was moderately successful but was not pursued further because of the prohibitive cost of the pheromone.163

The vine mealybug represents the most successful and to date only commercially viable use of mating disruption for control of scales or mealybugs, primarily because the pheromone can be made economically in large scale. Initial results from trials using a microencapsulated formulation were reported in 2006,164,165 and since then, other dispenser types have been developed, including reservoir dispensers and “puffers” that release puffs of pheromone at timed intervals.166-168 Vine mealybug mating disruption is most effective when used in combination with early-season insecticide treatments to reduce initial populations to low levels, which are then maintained with the disruptant treatment.167 In California, mating disruption of vine mealybug is now used on thousands of acres of wine grapes annually, and the active formulation is being registered for use in 8 additional countries by the manufacturer (Suterra LLC, Bend OR, USA).

5 Conclusions

We hope that this review has given the reader an appreciation of the fascinating chemistry of scale and mealybug pheromones. Although the biosyntheses of these compounds have not yet been studied, it is clear that they fall into two major groups, based on irregular terpenoid biosynthetic pathways for the diaspidid and pseudococcid species, and polyketides for the margorodid species. Synthesis of these pheromones in pure form can be challenging, requiring control of one to several chiral centers and the geometries of di- and trisubstituted alkenes. However, because most species are not inhibited by the presence of unnatural isomers, much shorter, non-stereoselective syntheses can be used to prepare “technical” grade pheromones which are usually adequate for practical purposes. Although numerous stereoselective and non-stereoselective syntheses of the various compounds have been developed, faster, more efficient, and more economical syntheses are still highly desirable in order to accelerate the development and adoption of these useful natural products for pest management.

Following the progression of syntheses from the late 1970s to the present is also an interesting study in the development of synthetic chemistry methodology. For example, syntheses of chiral pheromones in the 1980s made extensive use of chiral synthons available from natural sources, or derivatives thereof.
Alternatively, diastereomeric derivatives were formed from reaction of a chiral derivatizing agent with the racemate of the desired synthon, followed by separation of the diastereomers by fractional crystallization or chromatography (Schemes 21, 51 and 61). The desired chiral synthon was then released from the purified diastereomer by hydrolysis or some other appropriate reaction. Both of these methods were limited by the number and types of chiral synths or reagents that were available from natural sources.

This pool was then expanded somewhat by using enzymes to produce chiral synthons, either by kinetic resolution of racemates (i.e., enzyme-catalyzed reactions selective for one enantiomer) (Schemes 19, 53, and Madeira mealybug pheromone synthesis), or the related enzyme-catalyzed desymmetrization of achiral compounds containing two or more chiral centers such as meso compounds (Schemes 15, 65, 69 and 72).

However, the great leap forward that largely freed synthetic chemists from the limitations of the chiral synthons available from natural sources came with the introduction and widespread adoption of methods for asymmetric induction in achiral precursors, by a variety of methods. For example, temporarily attached chiral auxiliaries could be used to direct the stereoselective formation of new bonds (Schemes 27A, 27B, 29B, 38 and 56). Alternatively, chiral catalysts were developed that favored the production of one particular stereoisomer due to the three-dimensional assembly of the various reactants in the transition state (Scheme 19). In this day and age when the use of chiral catalysts is commonplace, it may be hard for younger chemists to appreciate the impact of a reaction such as the Sharpless asymmetric epoxidation on the field of organic synthesis. It was truly a turning point, in terms of demonstrating that generation of chirality by asymmetric induction was not only possible but practically feasible. In the intervening years, literally thousands of stereoselective reactions and applications have been developed, that have revolutionized the science of organic synthesis, both for small-scale applications in research laboratories, and in large-scale industrial applications.

Another area in which the advances in synthetic methodology are apparent from this review is in the formation of carbon–carbon bonds. Thus, in the syntheses from the 1980s, we see some of the first applications of copper-catalyzed reactions, or reactions using stoichiometric amounts of organocuprates. Subsequent years illustrate not only the expansion of the breadth and scope of these reactions, but introduction of additional coupling methods using other organometallics such as organostannanes (Schemes 14, 18, 29A and 46) and organozinc reagents (Schemes 7, 16 and 19), and reactions catalyzed by palladium complexes (Scheme 19). These include not only nucleophilic displacements, but also the regio- and stereoselective addition of organometallics to alkenes and alkynes (Schemes 1, 3, 7, 19 and 49). Olefin metathesis has also been used in pheromone synthesis (Scheme 50).

However, it is also useful to keep in mind that old reactions are not necessarily outdated or inefficient, particularly given that chiral catalysts containing rare elements such as palladium, gold, and ruthenium can be breathtakingly expensive. Rather, the different routes to a target compound, and the reagents required, should be carefully considered in light of the particular requirements of a project, including the required amount and stereochemical purity of a target compound.

To date, many of the pheromones described above have proven enormously useful for detection of infestations, particularly for invasive species. They have also found widespread use in monitoring scale and mealybug populations and their seasonal dynamics in numerous crops, providing valuable data on population cycles that inform pest management decisions. However, the use of pheromone-based methods for direct crop protection, particularly on a large scale, will not be competitive with other crop protection methods for a number of species because of the prohibitive cost of producing the required pheromones in sufficient quantities. This barrier to implementation may be insurmountable for some species because of the structural complexity of their pheromones.

6 References
