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1 **Massive release of volatile organic compounds due to leaf midrib wounding in *Populus tremula***

2 *Running title: High volatile emission upon midrib wounding*

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25 **Abstract**

26 We investigated the rapid initial response to wounding damage generated by straight cuts to the leaf
27 lamina and midrib transversal cuts in mature aspen (*Populus tremula*) leaves that can occur upon herbivore
28 feeding. Wound-induced volatile emission time-courses of 24 compounds were continuously monitored by
29 a proton-transfer-reaction time-of-flight mass spectrometer (PTR-TOF-MS). After the mechanical
30 wounding, an emission cascade was rapidly elicited, resulting in emissions of key stress volatiles methanol,
31 acetaldehyde and volatiles of the lipoxygenase pathway, collectively constituting ca. 99% of the total
32 emission. For the same wounding magnitude, midrib cuts lead to six-fold greater emissions of volatiles per
33 mm² of surface cut than lamina cuts during the first emission burst (shorter than seven minutes), and
34 exhibited a particularly high methanol emission compared to the emissions of other volatiles. This evidence
35 suggests that feeding by herbivores capable of consuming the leaf midrib can result in disproportionately
36 greater volatile release than feeding by smaller herbivores incapable of biting through the major veins.

37

38 **Key-words:**

39 abiotic stress; green volatiles; LOX products; mass spectrometry; methanol; proton-transfer-reaction;

40

41 **Introduction**

42 Leaf wounding due to herbivory or by mechanical damage induces the emission of biogenic volatile
43 organic compounds (BVOCs). As small damage as a few millimetre cut of leaf lamina generates a rapid
44 release of free fatty acids from plant membranes triggering the lipoxygenase chain reaction and leading to
45 emissions of volatile lipoxygenase (LOX) pathway products, mainly C6 aldehydes, alcohols and esters
46 (Brilli et al. 2011; Dudareva et al. 2006). The rapid burst of volatile emission upon mechanical wounding
47 lasts for several minutes until the emissions return to the pre-stress level (Portillo-Estrada et al. 2015). Thus,
48 the LOX products repel or attract herbivores and their natural enemies during leaf feeding (Scala et al. 2013)
49 and have antibacterial and antifungal properties for the open leaf wound (Kishimoto et al. 2008). The
50 wound-induced volatile emissions are also of special interest because volatile LOX products and semi-
51 volatile compounds such as jasmonic acid and methyl jasmonate trigger the expression of defence genes
52 and synthesis of other volatile and non-volatile metabolites downstream of the signalling cascade (Scala et
53 al. 2013). Moreover, the wound-related BVOCs can travel through the air to neighbouring plants and induce
54 the emission of methyl salicylate and volatile terpenoids, which may have a protective role in coping with
55 biotic and abiotic stresses (Heil 2014).

56 Under natural conditions plant leaves are exposed to attacks by a variety of herbivores. Whilst many
57 insect herbivores avoid consumption of the leaf midrib and primarily feed on the intercostal leaf lamina,
58 some insect herbivores exhibit plant defence sabotage behaviours as girdling, furrowing, and canal cutting
59 before feeding on the leaf lamina in order to render it more palatable. Notodontid caterpillars create girdles
60 that completely encircle stems, petioles, and rachises (Dussourd 2015; Ganong et al. 2012), and also cut
61 furrows in leaf midribs or sever leaf petioles (Dussourd et al. 2016). Canal cutting by multiple lineages of
62 lepidopteran larvae, beetles, and katydids (e.g. *Scudderia furcata*, *Aulacophora nigripennis*, *Danaus*
63 *plexippus*) (Dussourd 2009; Dussourd 2017; Helmus & Dussourd 2005) consists on first biting and severing
64 the midrib or side veins of a latex-secreting leaf to reduce the amount of latex, phloem sap, or resin canals
65 flow downstream of the bite. Thus the area of the leaf affected has less resins, latex and phloem-located
66 defences (e.g. toxins, antifeedants, and other sticky secretions) (Mescher 2012). Girdles to *Populus*
67 *deltoides* stems, for example, have been observed to eliminate induced phenolic synthesis in an adjacent
68 leaf (Arnold et al. 2004). Given that major veins are crucial for supplying leaves with water and thus, the
69 leaves and their malfunctioning cannot be compensated by minor veins (Sack et al. 2004), damage of major
70 vein might lead to disproportionately greater release of volatiles than damage of minor veins or leaf lamina.

71 There is evidence that the release of stress volatiles from leaves attacked by large herbivores capable of
72 cutting through and consuming leaf midrib and other major veins is greater than the emissions from leaves
73 attacked by herbivores feeding on intercostal areas (Copolovici et al. 2017), although the effect of the
74 severance of midrib alone has not been assessed. Moreover, *Oedemasia leptinoides* (Notodontidae) larvae
75 transferred from their host tree (*Carya illinoensis*) to *Populus deltoides* are capable of producing girdles
76 in the petioles of this species (Ralph 2009), suggesting that the widely used model genus *Populus* might be
77 used to analyse how petiole and midrib damage affects tree physiology (Dussourd 2017).

78 In this short communication, we present the quantitative and qualitative differences between the wound-
79 induced BVOC emissions of leaf lamina and midrib in European aspen (*Populus tremula* L.) and
80 demonstrate that midrib damage has a much greater influence on stress volatile release than damage of
81 intercostal leaf areas.

82

83 **Methods and Materials**

84 *Plant Material*

85 We used *Populus tremula* mature leaves of similar age, 7th to 9th leaf from the shoot tip, in order to avoid
86 the effect of leaf ontogeny on the wounding BVOC emission response (Portillo-Estrada et al. 2017). The
87 leaves grew on root suckers (genetically identical) produced by trees naturally growing in the campus of
88 the Estonian University of Life Sciences (Tartu, Estonia, 58.39° N, 26.70° E, elevation 41 m). The average
89 \pm SE leaf structural characteristics were: dry mass of 0.258 ± 0.015 g, water content of 59.9 ± 0.6 %, area
90 of 40.8 ± 1.9 cm², dry mass per unit area of 63.4 ± 2.2 g m⁻², lamina thickness of 0.2066 ± 0.0028 mm, and
91 midrib thickness of 1.198 ± 0.037 mm. Right after the harvest, the shoots were re-cut under water and kept
92 at a room temperature of 22 °C under a 500 W halogen stab lamp (model J-118, Philips) providing a
93 quantum flux density of ca. 350 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ at the shoot level to acclimate the leaves to the measurement
94 conditions.

95 *Analytical Setup*

96 Leaf photosynthetic activity, stomatal conductance and volatile emissions were measured online using
97 a GFS-3000 gas exchange system (Walz GmbH, Effeltrich, Germany) combined with a proton-transfer-
98 reaction time-of-flight mass spectrometer (PTR-TOF-MS) model 8000 (Ionicon Analytic GmbH, Innsbruck,
99 Austria). The clip-on type leaf cuvette (3010-S of Walz GFS-3000) covered 8 cm² of leaf surface, and the
100 enclosed leaf area was illuminated with an LED array/PAM-fluorometer 3055-FL providing saturating light

101 of 500 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$. The chamber was kept at a controlled constant temperature of 25 °C, and was operated
102 at a flow rate of 750 $\mu\text{mol s}^{-1}$. Ambient air with constant air humidity (16000 ppm H₂O, approx. 60%
103 relative humidity) and constant CO₂ concentration of 400 $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ purified by passing through a custom-
104 made ozone trap and a charcoal filter was used. A constant flow of 74 $\mu\text{mol s}^{-1}$ exiting the Walz gas
105 exchange system outlet was used for PTR-TOF-MS measurements.

106 The PTR-TOF-MS instrument detected the volatile compounds in real time, averaging 31250 spectra
107 (m/z 0-316) per second. The drift tube was operated at 600 V drift voltage, 2.3 mbar pressure, and 60 °C
108 temperature. Details regarding the functioning of the PTR-TOF-MS instrument, the settings used, the
109 analytical setup, and the data post-processing are provided in Portillo-Estrada et al. (2015), and the details
110 on the calibration and the procedure of resolving multi-peaks in the spectra in Portillo-Estrada et al. (2018).
111 The calibration of BVOCs concentrations was done with a gas mixture of pure standards for methanol,
112 acetone, acetaldehyde, isoprene, hexenal, hexenol, and monoterpenes (using α -pinene). For the rest of
113 BVOCs, their reaction rate constants were retrieved from the Supplementary material of Cappellin et al.
114 (2012) or otherwise they were assumed to be $2 \times 10^{-9} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$. We analysed in detail the emissions of 24
115 protonated compounds (Table 1) corresponding to typical BVOCs that leaves emit constitutively and due
116 to abiotic stress. This list includes constitutively produced isoprene, the enzymatic products of the
117 lipoxygenase pathway (LOXs) that typically occur after plant tissue damage, lightweight oxygenated
118 compounds (LOCs) and some large molecular size compounds traditionally considered to function as
119 hormones.

120 *Experimental Protocol*

121 The measurement routine started with the empty cuvette (background) measurement during 5 minutes
122 followed by careful insertion of the selected leaf in the cuvette. The leaf was stabilized under the measuring
123 conditions until steady-state values of stomatal conductance (g_s), net CO₂ assimilation rate (A), and isoprene
124 emission rate ($m^+/z = 69.070$) were reached. This step usually lasted 30 to 40 minutes. Then the leaf was
125 rapidly removed from the cuvette and a 7 mm cut was made with a razor blade either on leaf lamina avoiding
126 leaf veins or transversally through the midrib. The midrib severance and lamina cuts were located distally
127 1/3 from the leaf base, where the site of midrib feeding is usually located (Delaney & Higley 2006). The
128 leaf was immediately re-inserted into the cuvette, clamping exactly the same part of the leaf measured
129 previously. Thereafter, the BVOC release was recorded during the following ten minutes. Finally, the leaf
130 was removed and the empty cuvette background emissions were recorded again. A given leaf was only used

131 once for the mechanical wounding procedure. A total of 35 lamina cuts and 15 midrib cuts were performed,
132 altogether 50 leaves were used.

133 The wound-induced BVOC emission burst occurs right after the cuts are performed, but the actual
134 BVOC measurements began a few seconds later when the leaf was re-clamped in the cuvette. Therefore, in
135 order to integrate the whole burst peak, the actual BVOC emission data recorded after the re-clamping was
136 modelled by a bi-Gaussian function as in Portillo-Estrada et al. (2015) and this function was extrapolated
137 to the data missing period, that corresponded to < 10 % of the total BVOCs released during the emission
138 burst. Control measurements, where leaves were removed from the leaf cuvette for a similar period than
139 for the wounding experiments and then re-inserted, were done for several leaves. The control measurements
140 resulted in a rapid stabilization of leaf water exchange, photosynthesis rate, and no wound-induced BVOC
141 release.

142 The wound-induced BVOC emissions from both, lamina and midrib, were normalized by the surface of
143 open wound generated (mm^2) to allow a comparison between both types of tissue. Thus, we estimated the
144 wound area of lamina cuts by approximating their area to a rectangle, i.e. by multiplying the lamina
145 thickness by the cut length. In the case of midrib wounding, we considered also the area of the midrib
146 section, that was approximated to a circle (where midrib thickness was taken as the circle diameter).
147 Wound-induced BVOC emission burst data were used to estimate the integrated BVOC emission per wound
148 surface during the first minutes after wounding (nmol mm^{-2}) and the maximum BVOC emission rate per
149 wound surface ($\text{pmol mm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$). In addition, for comparison with previous studies we reported the BVOC
150 emissions also on the basis of mm of cut length.

151

152 **Results**

153 The midrib cuts resulted in much stronger BVOC emissions at a given wound surface (mm^2) than lamina
154 cuts for the total integrated BVOC emission burst ($P < 0.001$, Student's *t*-test; Fig. 1a) as well as for the
155 maximum BVOC emission rate recorded within the emission burst (peak emission): $17.9 \pm 1.2 \text{ pmol mm}^{-2}$
156 s^{-1} in lamina cuts and $99 \pm 11 \text{ pmol mm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ($P < 0.001$; Fig. 1b). If considering only the cut length (mm),
157 the difference between the total amounts of BVOCs released from both cut types became even higher (10-
158 fold; $P < 0.001$): $0.610 \pm 0.030 \text{ nmol mm}^{-1}$ for lamina cuts and $6.15 \pm 0.45 \text{ nmol mm}^{-1}$ for midrib cuts (Fig.
159 1c); as well as the difference between maximum emission rates (Fig. 1d).

160 The lamina and midrib wound-induced volatile blends were composed of a wide spectrum of BVOCs
161 (Table 1). In both cut types, the BVOC blend was dominated by the emission of hexenal (m^+/z 99.080),
162 acetaldehyde (m^+/z 45.034) and methanol (m^+/z 33.034) (Fig. 2a, Table 1), amounting together to 93.2 %
163 of the total emission for lamina and 93.8 % for midrib cuts. As a general trend, the emission per wound
164 surface of all BVOCs was significantly higher in midrib cuts compared to lamina cuts (Fig. 2, Table 1);
165 with the exception of methyl benzoate (m^+/z 137.160), monoterpene alcohol (m^+/z 155.143), and jasmonic
166 acid (m^+/z 211.133) (Fig.2c, Table 1). Methanol emission was particularly high for midrib cuts (11.7 times
167 higher than for lamina cuts; $P < 0.001$) while the emission of other LOCs and LOXs products were usually
168 three- to six-fold higher for midrib cuts. The difference between lamina and midrib wound-induced BVOC
169 emissions was generally higher when referring the emissions to cut length instead to wound surface area
170 (Table 1).

171 The mechanical wounding forced water loss; quantitatively assessed as the stomatal conductance for
172 water vapour (g_s). The increase in g_s was remarkable after the wounding compared to the pre-wounding
173 conditions, in particular, it was much higher for midrib cuts (21.1 ± 1.9 %) than for lamina cuts ($12.4 \pm$
174 0.9 %, $P < 0.001$). However, we did not find evidence of correlation between the degree of water loss and
175 the magnitude of BVOC emission rates. Leaf isoprene emission rate decreased by 10.5 ± 2.5 % ($P < 0.001$,
176 paired t -test) when comparing emissions before and after lamina cuts and by 25.1 ± 4.2 % ($P < 0.001$, paired
177 t -test) in the case of midrib cuts. The effect of midrib cuts on isoprene emission was greater than the effect
178 of lamina cuts ($P < 0.003$, t -test).

179

180 **Discussion**

181 Although both mechanical wounding types applied in this experiment resulted in cellular damage, the
182 sites of leaf damaged differ in structure and function and so do BVOC emissions, both qualitatively and
183 quantitatively. A razor blade cut results in direct exposure of the broken cell walls and the cytoplasmic and
184 vacuolar contents to oxidation by atmospheric air. It generates the conditions for triggering the action of
185 lipoxygenase (LOX) enzymes and the synthesis and subsequent emission of LOX pathway products (Fall
186 et al. 1999; Fall et al. 2001) as well as the emission of BVOCs contained in cell reservoirs. In addition,
187 cutting through the leaf midrib also exposes the contents of plant vascular bundles (xylem and phloem) to
188 the air. This can lead to release of specific vascular-contained volatiles, e.g. ethanol, that is produced in the
189 roots in anoxic conditions and then transported to the leaves through the xylem. Likewise, the leaf midrib

190 contains a high density of relatively small cells, among those collenchyma cells, that have thick cell walls,
191 and lignified xylem cells. Therefore, the cross section cut of a leaf midrib exposes a higher amount of cell
192 walls, and likely also plasmamembranes per unit cut surface area than a cut through a leaf lamina that has
193 larger and less densely packed cells. This can explain why the BVOC emissions related to membrane
194 degradation and cell wall metabolism were higher in midrib cutting treatments. In particular, emissions of
195 methanol were strongly enhanced. Methanol release occurs due to pectin demethylation and activation of
196 pectin methylsterases with associated release of methanol as one of the first stress reactions (Pelloux et al.
197 2007). Furthermore, LOX products derived from the degradation of fatty acids of the cell membranes are
198 characteristic stress volatiles emitted once there is membrane-level damage. However, methanol in cell
199 walls can strongly accumulate in the leaf liquid phase (Niinemets et al. 2004), and part of the rapid methanol
200 release might result from the release of methanol stored in the leaf liquid phase. Nevertheless, the water
201 solubility of acetaldehyde (Henry's law constant of $7.00 \text{ Pa m}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$) is much smaller than of methanol
202 ($0.461 \text{ Pa m}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$), thus the high emission level of acetaldehyde certainly reflects *de novo* synthesis upon
203 wounding. In addition, the high degree of elicitation of BVOC emission from midrib cuts might reflect
204 generally higher capacity for formation of reactive oxygen species in leaf veins, as demonstrated in several
205 plant species (Beneloujaephajri et al. 2013).

206 The increased water loss upon leaf wounding, also observed by Brillì et al. (2011) and Portillo-Estrada
207 et al. (2015), reflects the generation of a free liquid surface for evaporation that was particularly large for
208 midrib cuts where vascular bundles were exposed to air. Moreover, the increased leaf transpiration rate can
209 also indicate a disproportionately greater desiccation stress developing rapidly downstream of the cut with
210 associated loss of turgor and impairment of leaf physiological functioning (Sack et al. 2004), so-called
211 Ivanov effect (Moldau et al. 1993). In fact, the mechanical tissues in midribs are typically lignified
212 (Niinemets 1999) and might not be that active in generating the stress volatile release, but once the midrib
213 is cut, water availability rapidly decreases in lamina area downstream the cut and might generate a
214 secondary stress to leaf tissues with concomitant release of volatiles. In the case of methanol, stomatal
215 opening downstream the cut due to loss of turgor (Moldau et al. 1993) can generate a methanol burst even
216 without *de novo* methanol synthesis (Niinemets & Reichstein 2003).

217 In an ecological context, the cuts to the lamina resemble the damage done by herbivore skeletonizers
218 and hole feeders such as some moth and beetle larvae, whilst the midrib cuts resemble the damage
219 performed by free feeders such as large-sized caterpillars (e.g. notodontids), beetles, and katydids. Although

220 herbivory damage of major veins is relatively less common compared to lamina feeding, it does
221 occasionally occur, implying that it is important to gain mechanistic insight into differences in volatile
222 release from veins and intercostal mesophyll tissues. This study demonstrated the rapid BVOC release in
223 response to wounding of both lamina and midrib and highlights the much higher release of volatiles per
224 wound surface in cuts through the midrib, especially regarding methanol emission.

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225

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298
299

300 **Table 1**

301 Biogenic volatile organic compound (BVOC) blend emitted during seven minutes after straight cuts to
 302 the leaf lamina and transversal cuts to the leaf midrib of mature aspen (*Populus tremula*) leaves. The seven-
 303 minute integrated emission is expressed in picomol of compound per unit surface area (mm²) of open wound
 304 exposed after the cut (calculated from the leaf lamina thickness, midrib diameter, and cut length) or
 305 expressed in nanomol per unit cut length (mm). When average lamina and midrib cut BVOC emissions
 306 were significantly different ($P < 0.05$, Mann-Whitney U test), P -values were shown in bold.

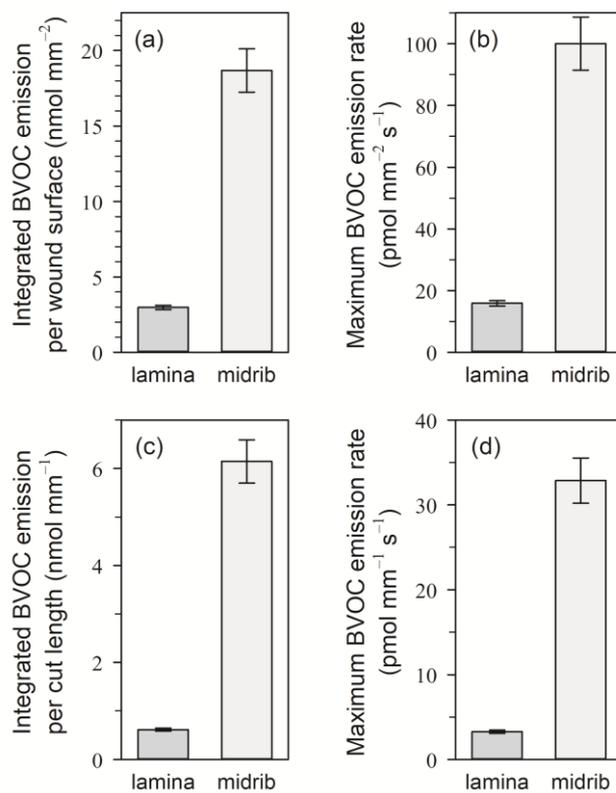
Compound	Molecular formula of the protonated compound	Protonated molecular mass of the parent ion	Average (\pm SE) volatile emission per wound surface (pmol mm ⁻²)			Average (\pm SE) volatile emission per cut length (nmol mm ⁻¹)		
			Lamina	Midrib	P -value	Lamina	Midrib	P -value
Lightweight oxygenated compounds			1,230 \pm 60	8,600 \pm 500	< 0.001	253 \pm 14	2820 \pm 170	< 0.001
Formaldehyde	CH ₃ O ⁺	31.018	3.03 \pm 0.35	14.5 \pm 2.7	< 0.001	0.62 \pm 0.07	4.9 \pm 1.0	< 0.001
Methanol	CH ₃ O ⁺	33.034	407 \pm 30	4,760 \pm 280	< 0.001	85 \pm 7	1580 \pm 110	< 0.001
Acetaldehyde	C ₂ H ₅ O ⁺	45.034	770 \pm 50	3,680 \pm 340	< 0.001	159 \pm 12	1200 \pm 100	< 0.001
Formic acid	CH ₃ O ₂ ⁺	47.013	8.3 \pm 1.0	13.2 \pm 2.0	0.031	1.70 \pm 0.20	4.3 \pm 0.7	< 0.001
Ethanol	C ₂ H ₇ O ⁺	47.049	9.8 \pm 0.9	27.0 \pm 4.2	< 0.001	2.01 \pm 0.19	12.7 \pm 0.8	< 0.001
Acetone	C ₃ H ₇ O ⁺	59.049	14.2 \pm 1.2	40.1 \pm 3.1	< 0.001	2.92 \pm 0.24	12.2 \pm 1.0	< 0.001
Acetic acid	C ₂ H ₅ O ₂ ⁺	61.028	9.7 \pm 0.8	27 \pm 4.2	< 0.001	2.01 \pm 0.18	9.0 \pm 1.4	< 0.001
Lipoxygenase pathway products			1,760 \pm 100	10,100 \pm 1,000	< 0.001	360 \pm 21	3320 \pm 300	< 0.001
Pentenal + pentenone	C ₅ H ₉ O ⁺	85.065	14.4 \pm 0.8	77 \pm 9	< 0.001	2.95 \pm 0.17	25.1 \pm 2.6	< 0.001
Pentanal + pentenol	C ₅ H ₁₁ O ⁺	87.080	4.19 \pm 0.34	14.6 \pm 2.1	< 0.001	0.86 \pm 0.07	4.7 \pm 0.6	< 0.001
Hexenal	C ₆ H ₁₁ O ⁺	99.080	1600 \pm 100	9,100 \pm 900	< 0.001	330 \pm 20	2980 \pm 270	< 0.001
Hexenol + hexanal	C ₆ H ₁₃ O ⁺	101.096	139 \pm 9	920 \pm 90	< 0.001	28.2 \pm 2.1	307 \pm 29	< 0.001
Hexanol	C ₆ H ₁₅ O ⁺	103.112	2.13 \pm 0.12	8.5 \pm 0.7	< 0.001	0.437 \pm 0.024	2.81 \pm 0.22	< 0.001
Hexenyl acetate	C ₈ H ₁₅ O ₂ ⁺	143.107	0.473 \pm 0.034	1.85 \pm 0.18	< 0.001	0.098 \pm 0.007	0.612 \pm 0.060	< 0.001
Hexyl acetate	C ₈ H ₁₇ O ₂ ⁺	145.122	0.051 \pm 0.007	0.336 \pm 0.044	< 0.001	0.0104 \pm 0.0014	0.107 \pm 0.014	< 0.001
Jasmonic acid	C ₁₂ H ₁₉ O ₃ ⁺	211.133	0.049 \pm 0.012	0.039 \pm 0.008	0.002	0.0103 \pm 0.0026	0.0121 \pm 0.0022	< 0.001
Methyl jasmonate	C ₁₃ H ₂₁ O ₃ ⁺	225.146	0.048 \pm 0.008	0.107 \pm 0.012	0.017	0.0099 \pm 0.0016	0.0361 \pm 0.0046	< 0.001
Benzenoids			0.105 \pm 0.015	0.259 \pm 0.044	< 0.001	0.0213 \pm 0.0030	0.083 \pm 0.013	< 0.001
Methyl benzoate	C ₈ H ₉ O ₂ ⁺	137.060	0.074 \pm 0.011	0.089 \pm 0.011	0.33	0.0151 \pm 0.0023	0.0312 \pm 0.0043	0.004
Methyl salicylate	C ₈ H ₉ O ₃ ⁺	153.055	0.058 \pm 0.006	0.21 \pm 0.05	0.006	0.0118 \pm 0.0013	0.064 \pm 0.015	< 0.001
Induced isoprenoids (isoprenoids other than isoprene)			0.626 \pm 0.045	1.65 \pm 0.13	< 0.001	0.129 \pm 0.009	0.542 \pm 0.042	< 0.001
Monoterpenes	C ₁₀ H ₁₇ ⁺	137.133	0.367 \pm 0.026	0.72 \pm 0.09	< 0.001	0.075 \pm 0.005	0.237 \pm 0.028	< 0.001
DMNT ^a	C ₁₁ H ₁₉ ⁺	151.148	0.074 \pm 0.008	0.25 \pm 0.05	0.016	0.0152 \pm 0.0017	0.081 \pm 0.016	0.001
Monoterpene alcohol	C ₁₀ H ₁₉ O ⁺	155.143	0.139 \pm 0.016	0.144 \pm 0.006	0.46	0.0286 \pm 0.0033	0.0467 \pm 0.0028	< 0.001
Sesquiterpenes	C ₁₅ H ₂₅ ⁺	205.195	0.075 \pm 0.011	0.382 \pm 0.048	< 0.001	0.0152 \pm 0.0023	0.128 \pm 0.018	< 0.001
TMTT ^b	C ₁₆ H ₂₇ ⁺	219.211	0.084 \pm 0.015	0.182 \pm 0.018	< 0.001	0.0177 \pm 0.0032	0.059 \pm 0.005	< 0.001
BVOC sum			2980 \pm 150	18700 \pm 1400	< 0.001	610 \pm 30	6150 \pm 450	< 0.001

307 ^(a) (*E*)-4,8-dimethyl-1,3,7-nonatriene; ^(b) (*E,E*)-4,8,12-trimethyl-1,3,7,11-tridecatetraene.

308 **Figure 1**

309 Quantitative differences in the **(a,c)** total wound-induced BVOC blend emitted during seven minutes
310 and **(b,d)** maximum emission rates after (dark grey) straight cuts to the leaf lamina and (light grey)
311 transversal cuts across the midrib of mature leaves of aspen (*Populus tremula*). The values (average \pm SE,
312 $n = 35$ for lamina cuts and $n = 15$ for midrib cuts) refer to the **(a,b)** open wound surface exposed (in mm^2)
313 and **(c,d)** the wound length (in mm), calculated from the leaf lamina thickness, midrib diameter, and cut
314 length. Note the different scales and units used in the y-axes.

315



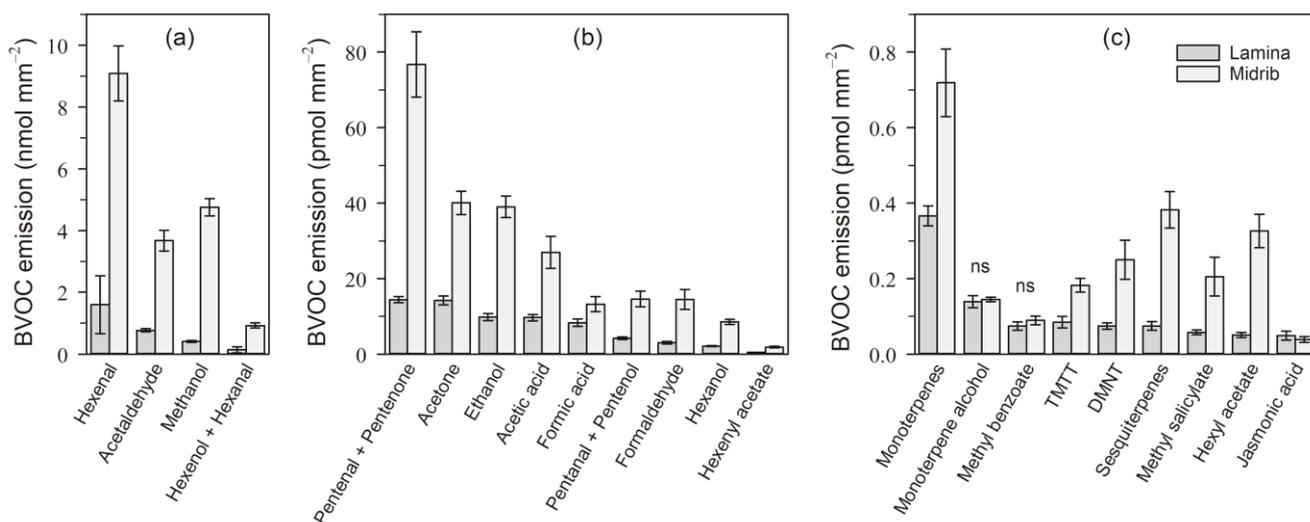
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318 **Figure 2**

319 Quantitative differences in the wound-induced BVOC blend emitted during seven minutes after straight
 320 cuts to the leaf lamina (in dark grey) and transversal cuts across the midrib (in light grey) of mature leaves
 321 of aspen (*Populus tremula*). The values (average \pm SE, $n = 35$ for lamina cuts and $n = 15$ for midrib cuts)
 322 refer to the open wound surface exposed (in mm^2), calculated from the leaf lamina thickness, midrib
 323 diameter, and cut length. Note the different scales and units used in the y-axes. P -values after Mann-
 324 Whitney U tests between lamina and midrib cuts were < 0.05 in most of cases, otherwise they were
 325 considered non-significant “ns”. TMTT = (*E,E*)-4,8,12-trimethyl-1,3,7,11-tridecatetraene. DMNT = (*E*-
 326 4,8-dimethyl-1,3,7-nonatriene. More information on the molecular formulae of the compounds, P -values,
 327 and exact emission values are provided in Table 1.

328



329