Chemoreceptor pleiotropy facilitates the functional coupling of the synthesis and
perception of mating pheromones

Kathleen M. Zelle[1,†], Cassondra Vernier[1,†], Nicole Leitner[1], Xitong Liang[2], Sean Halloran[3],
Jocelyn G. Millar[3], Yehuda Ben-Shahar[1,4,*]

[1]Department of Biology, Washington University in Saint Louis, 1 Brookings Drive, Saint
Louis, MO 63130 USA.

[2]Department of Neuroscience, Washington University School of Medicine, 660 South
Euclid Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110, USA

[3]Department of Entomology, University of California, Riverside, 900 University Avenue,
Riverside, CA 92521, USA

[4]Lead Contact

[*]Correspondence: benshahary@wustl.edu (Y.B.)

[†]Denotes equal contribution

ABSTRACT

Optimal mating decisions depend on stable-signaling systems because any independent changes in either the signal or its perception could carry a fitness cost. However, since the perception and production of specific mating signals are often mediated by different tissues and cell types, the genetic and cellular mechanisms that drive and maintain their coupling on the evolutionary and physiological timescales remain unknown for most animal species. Here, we show that in *Drosophila melanogaster,* sensory perception and synthesis of an inhibitory mating pheromone is regulated by the action of *Gr8a*, a member of the *Gustatory receptor* gene family. Particularly, *Gr8a* acts as a pheromone chemoreceptor in the sensory system of males and females, and, independently regulates pheromone synthesis in the male fat body and oenocytes. These data provide a relatively simple molecular explanation for how genetic coupling allows for the robust and stable flow of social information at the population level.

Keywords: *Drosophila melanogaster;* Vinegar fly; Cuticular hydrocarbons; *Gr8a*; Oenocyte.

INTRODUCTION

The majority of sexually-reproducing animals use intricate mating signaling systems, which rely on the robust physiological coupling between the production and perception of signals since any independent changes in either the signal or the capacity to sense it would carry a fitness cost (Boake, 1991; Brooks et al., 2005; Hoy et al., 1977; Shaw et al., 2011; Shaw and Lesnick, 2009; Steiger et al., 2011; Sweigart, 2010; Symonds and Elgar, 2008; Wyatt, 2014). Previously published theoretical models have hypothesized that possible solutions for maintaining the physiological coupling of signal production and perception are through strong genetic linkage between the genes that regulate mating signal production and those that mediate its perception, or alternatively, via the action of pleiotropic genes that control both processes (Boake, 1991; Butlin and Ritchie, 1989; Shaw et al., 2011; Shaw and Lesnick, 2009). Both mechanisms could provide a robust molecular solution (Chebib and Guillaume, 2019; Kirkpatrick and Hall, 2004; Lande, 1984, 1981, 1980) for the problem of maintaining a stable and reliable population-level social communication system while still retaining the capacity for future signal diversification, as necessitated for speciation (Chebib and Guillaume, 2019; Hoy et al., 1977; Kirkpatrick and Hall, 2004; Lande, 1984, 1981, 1980; Shaw et al., 2011; Shaw and Lesnick, 2009; Wiley et al., 2012).

Although empirical data in support of the role of gene-linkage or pleiotropy in maintaining the physiological coupling between mating signal production and perception are rare, several studies have provided theoretical and experimental support that pleiotropy likely plays an important role in the evolution and maintenance of the physiological coupling between mating-specific signals and the behaviors they elicit at the population level (Chebib and Guillaume, 2019; Hoy et al., 1977; Shaw et al., 2011; Shaw and Lesnick, 2009; Wiley et al., 2012). However, the complex characteristics of mating behaviors, and the signals that mediate them, present a major barrier for identifying the actual pleiotropic genes and molecular pathways that provide genetic coupling between the production and perception of mating signals (Chenoweth and Blows, 2006; Singh and Shaw, 2012). Furthermore, how the perception and production of mating signals remain stably coupled is particularly puzzling for mating pheromones because their perception is mediated by the peripheral sensory nervous system, while their production is often restricted to

specialized, non-neuronal pheromone producing cells (Chung and Carroll, 2015;

McKinney et al., 2015; Mucignat-Caretta, 2014). Therefore, whether pleiotropy could

function in both the production and perception of mating pheromones, a ubiquitous means

of signaling across animal mating systems (Mucignat-Caretta, 2014), remained unknown.

Here we show that, in the vinegar fly *Drosophila melanogaster*, some pheromone-driven

mating decisions are coupled to the production of specific pheromones via pleiotropic

chemoreceptors. Specifically, we demonstrate that *Gr8a*, a member of the *Gustatory*

receptor gene family, contributes to the perception of inhibitory mating signals in

pheromone-sensing neurons, as well as to the independent production of inhibitory

mating pheromones in oenocytes, non-neuronal pheromone-producing cells in the

abdomen of the insect. Together, these data provide a relatively simple molecular

explanation for how the perception and production of specific mating pheromones are

functionally and genetically coupled.

RESULTS

Similar to other insect species, in *Drosophila,* cuticular hydrocarbons (CHCs), long-chain

fatty acids synthesized by the fat body and oenocytes (Billeter et al., 2009; Gutierrez et

al., 2007; Krupp et al., 2013; Makki et al., 2014), provide a hydrophobic desiccation barrier

for the insect body, and play an important role as pheromones in regulating diverse

behaviors, including mating (Blomquist and Bagnères, 2010; Chung and Carroll, 2015;

Ferveur, 2005; Howard and Blomquist, 2005; McKinney et al., 2015). Specifically,

complex blends of CHCs are often utilized by insect species to communicate sex identity

and female mating status, as well as to define the behavioral reproductive boundaries

between closely related species (Billeter et al., 2009; Chung et al., 2014; Chung and

Carroll, 2015; Coyne et al., 1994; Dweck et al., 2015; Ng et al., 2014; Shirangi et al.,

2009; Yew and Chung, 2015). In *Drosophila*, the perception of volatile CHCs is mediated

by olfactory sensory neurons located in the antennae and maxillary palps (Benton et al.,

2007; Kurtovic et al., 2007; Lebreton et al., 2014; van der Goes van Naters and Carlson,

2007), while less volatile CHCs, whose perception requires physical contact, are sensed

by specialized gustatory-like receptor neurons (GRNs) in the appendages (legs and

wings) and the proboscis (Koh et al., 2015; Lu et al., 2014, 2012; Thistle et al., 2012;
Toda et al., 2012). While some of the genes and pathways that contribute to CHC
synthesis in *Drosophila* are known, the molecular identities of most CHC receptors remain
unknown. Previous work suggests that the gene *Desat1*, which encodes a fatty acid
desaturase enriched in oenocytes, might also independently contribute to CHC
perception (Bousquet et al., 2011). However, due to the expression of *Desat1* in central
neurons (Billeter et al., 2009) and the broad impact its mutant alleles have on the CHC
profiles of both males and females (Labeur et al., 2002), whether *Desat1* directly
contributes to mating signal perception remains unresolved.

Consequently, we chose to examine members of the *Gustatory receptor* (*Gr*) gene family
as candidates for pleiotropic factors that might contribute directly to both the perception
and production of pheromonal mating signals in *Drosophila*. Because several family
members have already been implicated in the detection of specific excitatory and
inhibitory pheromones (Bray and Amrein, 2003; Hu et al., 2015; Miyamoto and Amrein,
2008; Moon et al., 2009; Watanabe et al., 2011), and the majority of genes that encode
family members are already known to be enriched in GRNs (Clyne et al., 2000; Dunipace
et al., 2001; Scott et al., 2001; Wang et al., 2004), we reasoned that any pleiotropic *Gr*
genes should be expressed in abdominal oenocytes (Billeter et al., 2009) in addition to
GRNs. Accordingly, an RT-PCR screen revealed that 24 out of the 60 genes that encode
Gr family members in the *Drosophila* genome (Clyne et al., 2000; Dunipace et al., 2001;
Robertson et al., 2003; Scott et al., 2001) exhibit enriched expression in abdominal
tissues (Table 1).

Although several members of the *Gr* receptor family, including *Gr68a, Gr32a, Gr66a,*
Gr39a, and *Gr33a*, were previously linked to the sensory perception of mating
pheromones (Bray and Amrein, 2003; Lacaille et al., 2009; Miyamoto and Amrein, 2008;
Moon et al., 2009; Watanabe et al., 2011), none of these candidate pheromone receptors
were identified in our initial screen for *Gr* genes with enriched mRNA expression in
abdominal tissues of either males or females (Table 1). However, *Gr8a*, which we
identified as having male-specific expression in the abdomen (Table 1), has previously
been implicated in chemoreception with enriched expression in abdomens (Park and
Kwon, 2011), and was previously shown to specifically contribute to the sensory detection

of the non-proteinogenic amino acid L-Canavanine (Lee et al., 2012; Shim et al., 2015). Because our initial expression screen was based on whole-abdomen RNAs, and it was previously reported that *Gr8a* is also expressed in some abdominal neurons (Park and Kwon, 2011), we next used a GAL4 transgenic driver to examine the spatial expression pattern of *Gr8a* in male and female flies. As was previously reported, we found that *Gr8a* is expressed in 14-16 GRNs in the proboscis (Figure 1A) (Lee et al., 2012) as well as in two paired GRNs in the foreleg pretarsus (Figure 1B) of male and female flies. In addition, the *Gr8a*-GAL4 reporter was also highly expressed in abdominal oenocyte-like cells in males but not females (Figure 1C). The male-specific abdominal expression pattern was further supported by qRT-PCR (Figure 1D). Using immunohistochemistry, we then demonstrated that *Gr8a* is co-expressed with the oenocyte marker *Desat1* (Billeter et al., 2009), as well as in *Desat1*-negative cells with fat-body-like morphology (Figure 1E-G). Finally, by using immunohistochemistry on a CRISPR/Cas9 generated GFP tagged allele of the *Gr8a* locus, we demonstrated that the GR8A protein localizes to the fat body (Figure 1H).

Together, the enriched expression of *Gr8a* in foreleg GRNs, a primary pheromone chemosensory organ (Lu et al., 2014, 2012), and its sexually dimorphic expression in oenocytes and fat body suggested that in addition to its role in L-Canavanine perception (Lee et al., 2012; Shim et al., 2015), *Gr8a* contributes to mating behaviors. Since mating choices of both male and female flies are determined by a complex blend of excitatory and inhibitory pheromones (Billeter et al., 2009; Krupp et al., 2013), we anticipated that if *Gr8a* is indeed a pleiotropic factor that independently contributes to the perception and production of specific components of the male mating pheromone bouquet, then disruptions of the signal production in males or its perception in females should carry similar impacts on female mate choice behavior. To directly test this hypothesis, we first investigated whether *Gr8a* and the GRNs that express it are required for sensory functions associated with female mate choice by using a single-pair courtship paradigm (Lu et al., 2014, 2012). We found that blocking neuronal transmission in *Gr8a*-expressing GRNs with the transgenic expression of the tetanus toxin (TNT) in females resulted in a shorter copulation latency relative to wild-type females when courted by wild-type males (Figure 2A). Similarly, homozygous (Figure 2B) and hemizygous (Figure 2C) *Gr8a* mutant

females exhibited shorter copulation latencies relative to wild-type controls, which could
be rescued by the transgenic expression of a *Gr8a* cDNA (Figure 2D). In contrast, similar
genetic manipulations of the *Gr8a* gene or *Gr8a*-expressing GRNs in males did not affect
courtship behavior as measured by courtship latency and index towards wild-type females
(Figure 2- figure supplement 1). These data indicate that *Gr8a* is required for female mate
choice via the detection of male-borne inhibitory mating signals.

Because *Gr8a* expression is specifically enriched in male oenocytes, we next tested the
hypothesis that *Gr8a* also plays a role in the production and/or release of inhibitory mating
signals by males. Similar to the effect of the *Gr8a* mutation in females, we found that wild-
type virgin females exhibited shorter copulation latencies towards *Gr8a* mutant males
relative to wild-type controls (Figure 2E). These data suggest that *Gr8a* mutant males
produce and/ or release abnormally low levels of inhibitory mating pheromones.

Mating decisions in *D. melanogaster* rely on a balance between excitatory and inhibitory
drives (Kallman et al., 2015). Therefore, in this case, male-borne inhibitory signals may
help females optimize mate choice by delaying mounting and sperm transfer from
courting males. Additionally, previous studies showed that, in order to increase their
fitness, *Drosophila* males transfer inhibitory mating pheromones to females during
copulation, which subsequently lowers the overall attractiveness of mated females to
other males (Benton et al., 2007; Billeter et al., 2009; Datta et al., 2008; Yew et al., 2009).
Because our data indicate that *Gr8a* plays a role in the production of an inhibitory signal
in males, we reasoned that the same inhibitory signal may be transferred from males to
females during copulation. Therefore, we next tested the hypothesis that *Gr8a* mutant
males would have a reduced ability to produce and/or transfer inhibitory pheromones to
females during copulation. Accordingly, we found that wild-type males failed to recognize
the mating status of wild-type females that were previously mated with *Gr8a* mutant males
(Figure 2F). These data indicate that *Gr8a* action is required for the production and/or
transfer of inhibitory pheromones from males to females during copulation.

Because *Gr8a* is involved in the perception of an inhibitory mating signal, we also tested
the hypothesis that *Gr8a* mutant males exhibit an abnormal capacity for identifying the
post-mating status of wild-type females. Indeed, we observed that *Gr8a* mutant males

were more likely than wild type males to court a mated female (Figure 2F), suggesting

that in addition to its role in the production of inhibitory mating signals, *Gr8a* is also

required in males for the sensory recognition of mating inhibitory signals that mark the

post-mating status of females. Together, these studies indicate that *Gr8a* is required in

males for the production and perception of transferrable inhibitory mating signals that

advertise post-mating status in females. These data further support the pleiotropic role of

the *Gr8a* gene in the production of inhibitory mating signals in males and the perception

of these signals in both males and females in sex-specific contexts.

Because our behavioral data indicate that the *Gr8a* mutation has a dramatic effect on the

production and perception of a putative inhibitory mating pheromonal signal, we next

examined whether the *Gr8a* mutation has a direct effect on qualitative and quantitative

aspects of male and mated-female CHC profiles. Analyses of male CHCs by gas

chromatography and mass spectroscopy revealed that the *Gr8a* mutation has a

significant impact on the overall qualitative characteristics of the CHC profile of males

(Figure 3A), as well as significant quantitative effects on the levels of several specific

CHCs in males (Figure 3B-3C and Table 2). In particular, the *Gr8a* mutation affects the

levels of several alkenes and methyl-branched alkanes, which have been implicated in

mate choice behaviors in diverse *Drosophila* species (Billeter et al., 2009; Chung et al.,

2014; Dyer et al., 2014; Shirangi et al., 2009). Similarly, the *Gr8a* mutation affects the

expression level of two desaturase enzymes in males, *desat1* and *CG8630* (Figure 3D),

which are involved in the biosynthesis of alkenes (Chung and Carroll, 2015). We also

found that the overall qualitative aspects of the CHC profiles of wildtype females were not

affected by mating with either *Gr8a* mutant or wildtype males (Figure 3E). However,

quantitative analyses of individual CHCs revealed that nonacosane (C_{29}) is higher in

females that mated with the *Gr8a* mutant relative to those that mated with wildtype males

(Figure 3F). Together, our behavioral and pheromonal data indicate that *Gr8a* action

contributes to mating decisions in females by co-regulating the perception of an inhibitory

mating pheromone by females, as well as its production by males, which is consistent

with a pleiotropic function for *Gr8a*.

Next, we sought to identify the specific mating inhibitory CHCs that require *Gr8a* for their

perception by testing the effect of perfuming males with specific CHCs on wild type female

copulation latency in a single-pair courtship paradigm (Lu et al., 2014, 2012). We found

that wild-type females did not copulate with *Gr8a* mutant males that were perfumed with

the alkenes 9-C_{25}, 7-C_{25}, and 7-C_{27} (Figure 4). Similarly, we found that wild-type males

exhibited a lower courtship index and longer courtship latency when wildtype females

were perfumed with 9-C_{25} (Figure 5A-C), and a longer copulation latency when wildtype

females were perfumed with 7-C_{25} (Figure 5D-5F). In contrast, perfuming wildtype

females with 7-C_{27} had no effect on male courtship or female mating latency (Figure 5G-

I). These data suggest that the alkenes 7-C_{25}, 9-C_{25}, and 7-C_{27} may contribute to an

inhibitory signal associated with *Gr8a*.

DISCUSSION

The data presented here demonstrate that *Gr8a* is a pleiotropic chemoreceptor that co-

regulates the perception and production of a specific pheromonal signal that plays an

important role in mating behaviors of both sexes. In contrast to its expected function in

the perception of chemical ligands, how *Gr8a*, a member of a canonical chemoreceptor

family might also contribute to the production of pheromonal signals is not obvious. In

some better understood secretory cell types, autoreceptors are essential for the

regulation of synthesis and secretion rates. For example, dopaminergic and serotonergic

cells regulate rates of synthesis and release of their respective neuromodulators by the

action of autoreceptors, which regulate synthesis rates via signaling feedbacks in

response to changes in the extracellular concentrations of the secreted molecule (Ford,

2014; Stagkourakis et al., 2016). Therefore, one possible explanation for how *Gr8a* might

regulate the synthesis and/or secretion of specific CHCs is by acting as an oenocyte-

intrinsic autoreceptor, which regulates CHC synthesis rates by providing feedback

information about extracellular levels of specific compounds (Figure 6).

Previous work indicates that *Gr8a* is expressed in "bitter" taste neurons in the proboscis

and are specifically required for the sensory perception of the feeding deterrent L-

canavanine (Lee et al., 2012; Shim et al., 2015), but not for the detection of other inhibitory

chemicals such as caffeine, strychnine, and umbelliferone (Lee et al., 2009; Poudel et al.,

2015)*.* Our data indicate that *Gr8a* contributes to inhibitory functions associated with

mating decisions as well, as was previously reported for other 'bitter' receptors in
Drosophila (Lacaille et al., 2007; Moon et al., 2009). Together this indicates that 'bitter'
taste perception and the perception of inhibitory mating signals may share similar
pathways in this species.

Gr8a-dependent perception of L-canavanine seems to depend on its heterotrimeric
interaction with *Gr66a* and *Gr98b* in bitter sensing neurons in the proboscis (Shim et al.,
2015). Although both *Gr66a* and *Gr98b* were also identified in our initial screen for
receptors enriched in the abdomen, *Gr66a* was expressed in both males and females
while *Gr98b* was specifically enriched in females (Table 1). These data suggest that *Gr8a*-
dependent contributions to feeding and mating decisions are independently mediated via
interactions with different *Gr* genes in each sensory context, and further point to
combinatorial subunit composition as an essential aspect of the mechanism for ligand
specificity in insect gustatory receptors.

Although we do not yet know the specific chemical identity of the ligand of *Gr8a*, previous
studies indicated that at least two inhibitory mating pheromones, 11-cis-vaccenyl acetate
(cVA) and CH503, are transferred from males to females during copulations. While our
data suggest that the *Gr8a* mutation affects the level of cVA expressed by males, it is
unlikely that either cVA or CH503 are the putative *Gr8a* ligands because the volatile cVA
acts primarily via the olfactory receptor *Or67d* (Benton et al., 2007; Datta et al., 2008;
Kurtovic et al., 2007), and CH503 has been reported to signal via *Gr68a*-expressing
neurons, which are anatomically distinct from the *Gr8a* GRNs we describe here (Figure
1A-B) (Shankar et al., 2015; Yew et al., 2009). Instead, our CHC analyses in *Gr8a*
mutants (Figure 3), and the results of perfuming behavioral studies (Figures 4-5), suggest
that the alkenes 5-C_{25}, 7-C_{25}, and 7-C_{27} act as inhibitory mating signals as well.

Although the studies we present here do not directly address the possible contribution of
Gr8a to the rapid evolution of mating signals across *Drosophila*, phylogenetic analyses of
Gr8a orthologs indicate that this is a conserved, sexually dimorphic receptor across
Drosophila species (Figure 7A-B). Furthermore, analysis of the *Gr8a* protein alignment
revealed that in spite of the high overall sequence conservation, the *Gr8a* protein includes
at least one phylogenetically variable domain (Figure 7C-D). These data suggest that in

addition to the role of pleiotropic genes, such as *Gr8a*, in maintaining the physiological
coupling of the production and perception of mating pheromones, sequence
diversification of such genes might also drive the divergence of mating signaling systems,
such as the rapidly evolving pheromonal systems across the *Drosophila* species group.

Studies in other animal species suggest that receptor pleiotropy likely plays a role in
mating signaling via other sensory modalities including auditory communication in crickets
(Hoy et al., 1977; Wiley et al., 2012) and visual communication in fish (Fukamachi et al.,
2009). While the specific genes and signaling pathways that mediate mating systems in
these species are mostly unknown, these data suggest that the genetic coupling of signal-
receptor pairs in mating communication systems might be more common than previously
thought. Therefore, the genetic tractability of *D. melanogaster*, in combination with the
diversity of mating communication systems in this species-rich phylogenetic group,
provide a unique opportunity for understanding the evolution and mechanisms that drive
and maintain mating communication systems at the genetic, molecular, and cellular
levels.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Animals. Flies were maintained on a standard cornmeal medium under a 12:12 light-dark
cycle at 25 Celsius. Unless specifically stated, the *D. melanogaster Canton-S (CS)* strain
served as wild-type control animals. UAS-mCD8::GFP, UAS-myr::GFP, UAS-TNT-E,
UAS-TNT-IMP-V1-A, *Gr8a-GAL4* and *Gr8a^1* fly lines were from the Bloomington Stock
center. Originally in the *w^{1118}* background, the *Gr8a^1 null* allele was outcrossed for six
generations into the *CS* wild-type background. *PromE(800)-GAL4* and
PromE(800)>Luciferase were from Joel Levine at the University of Toronto. The following
Drosophila species were obtained from the San Diego Stock Center: *D. simulans* 14011-
0251.192, *D. sechellia* 14021-0248.03, *D. yakuba* 14021-0261.01, *D. erecta* 14021-
0224.00, *D. ananassae* 14024-0371.16, *D. pseudoobscura* 14011-0121.104, D.
persimilis 14011-0111.50, *D. willistoni* 14030-0811.35, *D. mojavensis* 15081-1352.23,
and *D. virilis* 15010-1051.118. The UAS-*Gr8a* transgenic line was generated by cloning
the *Gr8a* cDNA in the pUAST-attB vector using 5' EcoRI and 3' NotI restriction sites,

followed by *ΦC31* integrase-dependent transgene integration at a Chromosome 2 *att*P

landing site (2L:1476459) as previously described (Zheng et al., 2014). For genetic

rescue experiments, the UAS-*Gr8a* and *Gr8a*-GAL4 lines were transgressed into the

Gr8a¹ CS genetic background.

The GFP-tagged allele of *Gr8a* was generated via CRISPR/*Cas9*-dependent editing

using a modified "scarless" strategy (www.flyCRISPR.molbio.wisc.edu) as described in

(Hill et al., 2019) using the sgRNA CGAGCAAGGCGGGAACGATT, and a donor plasmid

containing 1) A backbone with ampicillin resistance; 2) Eye-specific dsRed reporter driven

by the 3XP3 promoter, flanked by two *PiggyBac* transposase recognition sites; 3-4) The

left and right homology arms, which consisted of 1kb genomic DNA fragments upstream

and downstream of the sgRNA site respectively. Single base pair mutations were

introduced into the PAM sequence at each sgRNA binding site on the homology arms to

prevent Cas9-dependent cutting of the donor plasmid. The left homology arm included

the GFP coding sequence in the last intracellular loop of the Gr8a protein. pDCC6

plasmids containing sgRNA and cas9 sequences (100 ng/µL) and the donor plasmid (500

ng/µL) were co-injected into eggs of the *yw* background. Subsequently, correct genomic

integration of the GFP tag was verified by screening for DsRed-positive animals, followed

by sequencing of genomic PCR fragments. Control lines with the same genetic

background were generated by selecting DsRed-negative animals. The final

tagged *Gr8a* allele was generated by removing the DsRed cassette via the introduction

of the *piggyBac* transposase (Bloomington #8285).

Immunohistochemistry. To visualize the expression pattern of *Gr8a* in males and

females, *Gr8a-GAL4* flies (Lee et al., 2012) were crossed to UAS-CD8::EGFP and live-

imaged at 5 days old using a Nikon-A1 confocal microscope. To demonstrate *Gr8a*

expression in oenocytes, abdomens from *Gr8a*-GAL4/UAS-*myr::GFP;*

PromE(800)>Luciferase flies were dissected and immunostained as previously described

(Lu et al., 2012; Zheng et al., 2014) by using a Rabbit anti-GFP (1:1000; A-11122, Thermo

Fisher Scientific) and a mouse anti-luciferase (1:100; 35-6700, Thermo Fisher Scientific)

antibodies followed by AlexaFluor 488 anti-rabbit and AlexaFluor 568 anti-mouse

secondary antibodies (Both at 1:1000; Thermo Fisher Scientific). To visualize the GR8A
protein, abdomens of control flies and flies with CRISPR/Cas9 generated GFP-tagged
GR8A were dissected and immunostained as previously described (Lu et al., 2012; Zheng
et al., 2014) using a Rabbit anti-GFP antibody (1:1000; A-11122, Thermo Fisher
Scientific) followed by AlexaFluor 488 anti-rabbit secondary antibody (1:1000; Thermo
Fisher Scientific).

mRNA expression. Newly eclosed flies were separated by sex under CO_2 and aged for
5 days on standard cornmeal medium. On day 6, flies were placed in a -80°C freezer until
RNA extraction. To separate body parts, frozen flies were placed in 1.5ml microcentrifuge
tubes, dipped in liquid nitrogen, and then vortexed repeatedly until heads, appendages,
and bodies were clearly separated. Total RNA was extracted using the Trizol Reagent
(Thermo Fisher Scientific) separately from heads, bodies, and appendages for *Gr8a*
expression and from bodies for desaturase enzyme genes. cDNAs were synthesized
using SuperScript II reverse transcriptase (Thermo Fisher Scientific) with 500 ng total
RNA in a 20 uL reaction. Real-time quantitative RT-PCR was carried out as previously
described with *Rp49* as the loading control gene (Lu et al., 2014, 2012; Zheng et al.,
2014). Primer sequences are described in Tables 5, 6 and 7.

Courtship Behavior. Single-pair assays were performed as we have previously
published (Lu et al., 2014, 2012). In short, newly eclosed males were kept individually on
standard fly food in plastic vials (12 x 75mm). Newly eclosed virgin females were kept in
groups of 10 flies. All behaviors were done with 4-7 day-old animals, which were housed
under constant conditions of 25° C and a 12h:12h light-dark cycle. Courtship was video
recorded for 10 min for male courtship and 15 min for female mating receptivity. Male
courtship latency and index were measured as previously described (Lu et al., 2014,
2012). Female receptivity index was defined as the time from the initiation of male
courtship until copulation was observed. Unless otherwise indicated, assays were
performed under red light conditions.

Fitness measures. Three-day old virgin male-female pairs were housed together for 24
hours after which males were discarded. Subsequently, groups of five females were
allowed to lay eggs daily on fresh agar grape plates for five consecutive days. Fitness
was measured as total number of eggs laid.

Perfuming studies. Synthetic compounds were synthesized by J.G.M. Perfuming
studies were performed using a modified protocol from (Billeter et al., 2009). In short, 3
mg of each compound was dissolved in 6 mL hexane (Sigma-Aldrich #139386-500ML)
and 0.5 mL was pipetted into individual 2 mL glass vials fitted with 9mm PTFE lined caps
(Agilent Crosslab, Santa Clara, CA, USA). The hexane was evaporated under a nitrogen
gas flow, such that a residue of the compound was left around the bottom one-third of the
vial. Control vials were prepared using hexane without a spiked compound. Vials were
kept at -20°C until use. Flies used in these trials were collected as described above, kept
in single sex groups and aged for 4 days on standard cornmeal medium at 25°C. 24 hours
before perfuming, 20 flies of one or the other sex were placed in glass vials containing
standard cornmeal medium (12 x 75mm). To perfume the flies, these groups of 20 flies
were dumped without anesthesia into each 2 mL vial containing the compound of interest,
and were vortexed at medium-low speed for 3 pulses of 20 seconds punctuated by 20
second rest periods. Flies were transferred to new food vials and were allowed to recover
for one hour. Perfumed flies were then used in courtship behavior assays as described
above and the remaining flies were used in pheromone analyses to verify compound
transfer. The genotype of flies that were perfumed differed based upon the genotype with
the lower amount of each compound as determined in Figure 3 (B, C, F). In all cases,
compound transfer was verified by CHC extraction and GC/MS (Table 8).

Phylogenetic analysis. Protein sequences of GR8A orthologs from the 12 sequenced
Drosophila reference genomes were aligned by using the ClustalW algorithm in the
Omega package (Sievers et al., 2011), followed by ProtTest (v2.4) to determine the best
model of protein evolution (Abascal et al., 2005). Subsequently, Akaike and Bayesian
information criterion scores were used to select the appropriate substitution matrix. We

then used a maximum likelihood approach and rapid bootstrapping within RAxML v 7.2.8

Black Box on the Cipres web portal to make a phylogenetic tree (Miller et al., 2010).

Visualizations of the bipartition files were made using FigTree v1.3.1

(http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/figtree/).

Pheromone Analysis. Virgin flies were collected upon eclosion under a light CO_2

anesthesia and kept in single-sex vials in groups of 10 with 6 biological replications for

each genotype and sex. Virgin flies were aged for 5 days on standard cornmeal medium

at 25°C. To collect mated flies, both females and males were aged for 3 days before

single mating pairs were placed in a standard fly vial with standard cornmeal food for 24

hours. The pair was then separated for 24 hours before collection. Copulation was

confirmed by the presence of larvae in the vials of mated females several days later. On

the morning of day 5, flies were anesthetized under light CO_2 and groups of five flies were

placed in individual scintillation vials (VWR 74504-20). To extract CHCs, each group of

flies was covered by 100 uL hexane (Sigma-Aldrich #139386-500ML) containing 50µg/mL

hexacosane (Sigma-Aldrich #241687-5G) and was washed for ten minutes.

Subsequently, hexane washes were transferred into a new 2 ml glass vial containing a

350 uL insert (Thermo Scientific C4000-LV-1W) and were stored at -20°C until shipment

to the Millar laboratory.

Analyses of CHC profiles were done by gas chromatography and mass spectroscopy

(GC-MS) in the Millar laboratory at UC Riverside as previously described (Chung et al.,

2014). Peak areas were measured, and data was normalized to known quantity of internal

standard hexacosane (Sigma-Aldrich #241687-5G). The relative proportion of each

compound in each sample was calculated and used in further statistical analysis.

Qualitative data were analyzed through a permutation MANOVA using the ADONIS

function in the vegan package of R with Bray-Curtis dissimilarity measures (Oksanen et

al., 2017). Data were visualized using non-metric multidimensional scaling (vegdist

function in the vegan package of R followed by cmdscale function in the stats package

(Oksanen et al., 2017)) using Bray-Curtis dissimilarity, and either 2 or 3 dimensions in

order to minimize stress to < 0.1. Quantitative data were analyzed by using a t-test or
Mann-Whitney Rank Sum Test in R 3.3.2 (R Core Team, 2016).

Data availability. All relevant data are available from the corresponding author upon
request.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

K.M.Z., C.V., J.G.M. and Y.B-S designed experiments. K.M.Z., C.V., N.L., X.L., S.H.,
J.G.M. and Y.B-S collected and analyzed data. K.M.Z., C.V. and Y.B-S wrote the
manuscript.

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Wild type *Drosophila* species were obtained from the National *Drosophila* Species Stock
Center at Cornell University.

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Figures and figure legends:

Figure 1. *Gr8a* **is a sexually dimorphic chemosensory receptor enriched in male**

oenocytes and fat body. (A) *Gr8a* promoter activity in proboscis, (B) forelegs, and (C)

abdomens of males (top panels) and females (bottom panels). (D) *Gr8a* mRNA

expression. Relative mRNA levels were measured by real-time quantitative RT-PCR. **,

$p<0.01$ Mann Whitney Rank Sum Test, n=3/group. (E) Confocal z-stack image of

Gr8a>EGFP in abdominal cells. (F) Confocal z-stack image of *desat1*>Luciferase in

abdominal cells. (G) Co-expression of *Gr8a* and *desat1*. (H) Confocal z-stack image of

GFP-tagged GR8A protein in abdominal cells. Green, *Gr8a*; Red, *desat1*; Blue, nuclear

DAPI stain. Orange arrowhead, fat body cells; white arrowhead, oenocytes. Scale bar =

100μm.

Figure 2. *Gr8a* activity contributes to the perception and production of an inhibitory signal associated with mating decisions in males and females. (A) Blocking neural activity in female *Gr8a*-expressing sensory neurons shortens copulation latency. Homozygous (B) or hemizygous (C) *Gr8a* null females show shortened copulation latency relative to wild-type controls. Df(1)BSC663 is a deficiency that covers the *Gr8a* locus. Df(1)BSC754 was used as a control. (D) Expression of *Gr8a* cDNA with *Gr8a* promoter (Gr8a-;Gr8a^tg) rescues the copulation latency phenotype in *Gr8a* mutant females. (E) Wild-type females exhibit shorter copulation latency when courted by *Gr8a* mutant relative to wild-type males. (F) *Gr8a* mutant males do not recognize mating status of females, and have a reduced transfer of inhibitory mating pheromones during copulations. Female, female genotype; Sperm donor, genotype of males mated first with focal females; Focal male, genotypes of experimental males presented with mated females. Different letters above bars indicate statistically significant *post hoc* contrasts between groups (panels C, D, and F; p<0.05 ANOVA, n>15/group). *, p<0.05, Mann Whitney Rank Sum Test, n>15/group).

Figure 2—figure supplement 1. *Gr8a* has no effect on male Courtship Index or
Latency toward wild-type females. (A) Courtship Index and Latency (s) of control *Gr8a-
gal4/UAS-IMP-TNT- V1A* (*TNT^{inactive}*) and *Gr8a-gal4/UAS-TNT-E* mutant males
towards wild-type females. (B) Courtship index and latency (s) of wild-type (*CS*) and

704 *Gr8a null* males toward wild-type decapitated females. Mann Whitney Rank Sum Test,

705 not significant (p>0.05), n=15/group.

Figure 3. The *Gr8a* mutation affects the pheromone profiles of males and mated
females. (A) Nonmetric multidimensional scaling (NMDS) plot of CHC profiles of wild-
type and *Gr8a* mutant males. p<0.001, permutation MANOVA. **(B-C)** The effect of the
Gr8a mutation on levels of individual CHCs in males. (B) CHCs found at high proportions
in males. (C) CHCs found at low proportions in males. Only affected CHCs are shown.
See Table 2 for the complete list. *, p<0.05, **, p<0.001, Student's t-test or Mann Whitney
Rank Sum Test, n=6 (Gr8a-) or 7 (wt). **(D)** The effect of *Gr8a* mutation on the expression
level of several desaturase genes. Only affected genes are shown. See Table 3 for the
complete list. *, p<0.05, Student's t-test, n=4/group. **(E)** NMDS plot of CHC profiles of
females mated with wild-type or *Gr8a* mutant males. p=0.570, permutation MANOVA. **(F)**
Nonacosane (C_{29}) differs between females mated with wild-type and *Gr8a* mutant males.
See Table 4 for complete list of mated-female CHCs. *, p<0.05, Student's t-test,
n=6/group.

**Figure 4. *Gr8a*-associated alkenes inhibit normal courtship behaviors when males
are perfumed.** Perfuming males with exaggerated amounts of several alkenes increases
copulation latency compared to control males. Asterisks above bars indicate statistically
significant contrasts compared to control flies, p<0.05, Kruskal-Wallis Test followed by
Dunn's Test, n=15/group.

Figure 5. *Gr8a*-associated alkenes inhibit normal courtship behaviors when females are perfumed. Perfuming females with 9-C_{25} increases courtship latency (A), decreases courtship index (B), but does not affect copulation latency compared to control females. Perfuming females with 7-C_{25} does not affect courtship latency (D) or index (E), but increases copulation latency (F) compared to control females. Perfuming females with 7-C_{27} does not affect courtship latency (G), courtship index (H), or copulation latency (I) compared to control females. Asterisks above bars indicate statistically significant contrasts compared to control flies, $p < 0.05$, Mann Whitney Rank Sum Test, n=15/group.

Figure 6. Model for the pleiotropic action of *Gr8a* in the perception and production of pheromones. (A) *Gr8a* functions as a chemoreceptor for an inhibitory signal in pheromone-sensing GRNs of males and females. (B) *Gr8a* also functions as a CHC autoreceptor in oenocytes, which regulates CHC secretion [1] or CHC synthesis [2] via signaling feedback loops [3].

Figure 7. *Gr8a* expression is sexually dimorphic across the *Drosophila* genus. (A)

Phylogenetic tree of *Drosophila Gr8a* proteins. Substitution rate = 0.2. (B) *Gr8a* mRNA

expression is enriched in males relative to females across *Drosophila*. Black, males;

white, females. *, p<0.05; **,p<0.01; Mann Whitney Rank Sum Test, n=4/group. Live *D.*

grimshawi was not analyzed because live specimens were not available at the

Drosophila Species Stock Center (DSSC). (C) Multiple aligned amino acid sequences of

Gr8a protein sequences from 12 species across *Drosophila.* Box highlights a putative

hypervariable protein domain, which is shown at a higher resolution in (D). Numbers on

top of alignment indicate amino acid number. Black, 100% identical; Dark Gray, 80-

100% similar; Light Gray, 60-80% similar; White, less than 60% similar (Blosum62 score

matrix, threshold=1). Bars below consensus represent overall level of amino acid

conservation.

Tables and table legends

Gene	Male	Female
Gr2a	-	+
Gr8a	+	-
Gr10a	+	+
Gr21a	-	+
Gr22a	+	-
Gr22e	+	+
Gr36c	+	-
Gr58c	+	+
Gr59a	+	+
Gr59b	+	+
Gr63a	+	-
Gr64a	+	-
Gr64b	+	+
Gr64c	+	+
Gr64d	+	-
Gr66a	+	+
Gr89a	+	+
Gr93a	-	+
Gr93d	+	+
Gr97a	+	+
Gr98a	+	+
Gr98b	-	+
Gr98c	+	+
Gr98d	+	+

762 **Table 1.** Candidate *Gr* genes in male and female abdomen. Plus sign indicates presence

763 of PCR product and minus signs indicates PCR product not detected. Genes with no PCR

764 product detected in male or female abdomens not shown.

R.T.	Compound	wt % total	Gr8a % total	p value
12.31	C_{21}	0.589	1.102	<0.001
13.24	Unknown	0.071	0.191	<0.001
14.2	C_{22}	0.893	0.949	0.339
14.34	$7\text{-}C_{22}$	0.362	0.490	<0.001
15.25	Unknown	0.128	0.226	<0.001
16.22	C_{23} & $9\text{-}C_{23}$	13.682	12.671	<0.001
16.4	$7\text{-}C_{23}$	30.201	35.478	0.002
16.53	$5\text{-}C_{23}$	2.772	2.389	<0.001
16.71	CvA	10.240	15.700	<0.001
18.03	C_{24} & $9\text{-}C_{24}$	0.578	0.367	<0.001
18.19	$8\text{-}C_{24}$	0.742	0.493	<0.001
18.27	$7\text{-}C_{24}$	0.579	0.402	<0.001
18.37	$6\text{-}C_{24}$	0.395	0.233	<0.001
18.46	$5\text{-}C_{24}$	0.040	0.047	0.943
19.09	$2Me\text{-}C_{24}$	2.426	3.240	<0.001
19.95	C_{25}	0.000	2.038	0.001
20.02	C_{25} & $9\text{-}C_{25}$	6.195	1.793	<0.001
20.18	$7\text{-}C_{25}$	14.781	4.344	<0.001
20.42	$5\text{-}C_{25}$	0.296	0.000	<0.001
22.89	$2Me\text{-}C_{26}$	6.007	6.933	0.002
23.7	C_{27}	1.127	0.719	0.052
23.94	$7\text{-}C_{27}$	0.308	0.083	<0.001
26.46	$2Me\text{-}C_{28}$	4.992	5.775	0.078
27.25	C_{29}	0.351	0.317	0.574
29.89	$2Me\text{-}C_{30}$	1.245	2.353	<0.001

767 **Table 2.** Male CHCs. Retention time (R.T.), compound, and percent total (% total) of each
768 compound as part of the total pheromonal bouquet for wild-type (wt) and *Gr8a* mutant
769 males.

Gene	wt mRNA fold difference	*Gr8a* mRNA fold difference	p value
desat1	1.282	0.931	0.037
desat2	1.413	1.270	0.506
CG8630	0.951	1.429	0.012
CG9747	0.838	0.525	0.343
CG9743	1.060	0.959	0.373
CG15331	0.774	1.000	0.21

772 **Table 3.** Desaturase gene expression. Relative mRNA expression of each desaturase

773 gene for wild-type (wt) and *Gr8a* mutant males.

R.T.	Compound	wt % total	*Gr8a* % total	p value
12.31	C_{21}	0.234	0.242	0.712
14.2	C_{22}	0.330	0.352	0.512
14.34	$7\text{-}C_{22}$	0.029	0.029	0.958
15.25	Unknown	0.238	0.200	0.128
16.09	C_{23}	6.481	6.580	0.748
16.4	$7\text{-}C_{23}$	2.454	2.729	0.149
16.39	$7,11\text{-}C_{23}$	0.473	0.426	0.208
16.53	$5\text{-}C_{23}$	0.254	0.235	0.416
16.71	CvA	1.349	1.135	0.233
17.99	C_{24}	0.660	0.732	0.209
18.19	$8\text{-}C_{24}$	0.156	0.174	0.334
19.09	$2Me\text{-}C_{24}$	1.214	1.104	0.155
19.95	C_{25}	5.404	5.683	0.336
20.02	C_{25} & $9\text{-}C_{25}$	3.141	3.851	0.699
20.18	$7\text{-}C_{25}$	3.144	2.999	0.422
20.25	$7,11\text{-}C_{25}$	1.822	1.684	0.315
20.42	$5\text{-}C_{25}$	0.526	0.555	0.375
20.47	$5,9\text{-}C_{25}$	0.686	0.704	0.589
22.89	$2Me\text{-}C_{26}$	10.010	9.247	0.1554
23.7	C_{27}	3.616	3.393	0.24
23.8	$9\text{-}C_{27}$	2.498	2.739	0.937
23.94	$7\text{-}C_{27}$	3.819	4.885	0.24
24.1	$7,11\text{-}C_{27}$	21.464	19.770	0.18
24.28	$5,9\text{-}C_{27}$	2.557	2.438	0.12
25.85	$7,11\text{-}C_{28}$	0.658	0.645	0.573
26.46	$2Me\text{-}C_{28}$	4.779	5.022	0.306
27.25	C_{29}	0.577	0.693	0.01
27.7	$7,11\text{-}C_{29}$	19.411	19.589	0.824
29.89	$2Me\text{-}C_{30}$	1.359	1.465	0.17
31.03	$7,11\text{-}C_{31}$	0.562	0.606	1

776 **Table 4.** Mated-female CHCs. Retention time (R.T.), compound, and percent total (%
777 total) of each compound as part of the total pheromonal bouquet for females mated with
778 wild-type (wt) or *Gr8a* mutant males.

Gene	Forward Primer	Reverse Primer
Gr10a	AGCGCGAGAGCTTTCGGATGC	AAAGTCCACACAGCATGGGCGG
Gr10b	GCGACTGTCCAGAGGATGTGGC	CAGCTGATCAAAGCGAATGCGC
Gr21a	AACTACCGGCTCGCCGATCG	AGGTTGCCCCGTGGTCGATGA
Gr22a	TGGGACCTTTGGCAGGGAATCG	TGCGATGACTGCAGAAGAGGGT
Gr22b	GGTTGTGCATTGCCGCATGCG	CTGCAAAGCCAAGCGAACTCGT
Gr22c	GCCGCCAGCGATCTAGCTGAG	CAATGACCGCACAGCAATGCGA
Gr22e	TGGTCTTCGTTCAAGCGCTGGT	GCCGGCGATGGCTGCAGAATAAT
Gr22f	GATCGCCTGCTGAAGCTGAGTGA	GTGGGTGCACAGCCATGCGAAT
Gr23a	AGCGATTTGTGGTGACCGCCA	CATCCGCTGCCTCGCGTTGA
Gr28a	TCGCCCTGCCGCACATCAATA	GGGTGAGAGTTCCAAGGCGCT
Gr28b	ACTGGAGGCATAGTGCACTCCCT	AGTGGTCAAGGCCCCGCTGAT
Gr2a	TTTGCGACCGAACGGCCCAG	GTTGAAGAAGCCAGCGGCGC
Gr32a	ACACGGTCACCACCAACTGCT	ACCAAGTATGTTGTGACGGCCGAA
Gr33a	ATCGCCACGCACCCCTTACC	GCTCACCACAAAGCAGGCCG
Gr36a	GAGGTCGTGTCGTTGCAGCCC	GTGCTCGCTGACGCCATCTGT
Gr36b	TGGCATGCAAGGGCTTATGGCT	CCGCAGTTGAGCCACGCGTG
Gr36c	CGGCAGAGCAAACATGTTGCACG	ACTGCAAGCCCAGTCCCAGGT
Gr39a	TACCCCGAACCGGGACTGGG	CCAGAGCGAAAAATCCATAAGCGGT
Gr39b	GGGCGCCAACTGCACATTGG	TCCAATCGAGGGATGGCAGGACA
Gr43a	GCTGGCCCTGGCTCCATATGC	AACCCCTTGTTCTTGGCTGCGGC
Gr47a	GGTCGGGCCAGAGAAATCGGC	CCCGCTTGGGATGGAGGGCC
Gr47b	GCCCTGGGATCCCGAGTACG	TGCCCGATGTCAACTGGTGATCT
Gr57a	GGCAAGGAGATGCCTTCGCCT	GCCCATCTTCTGGGTCATGGCG
Gr58a	TGTGGATGACGTGACGCGGA	ACGGATGACAACGAAGGTGATCCGA
Gr58b	ACCTCCTGCAACAACACTGGCC	CCGATTCTGCCTCAGCTGCATGG
Gr58c	ACCGCTGTAAGTGGTTGGGACT	TCCAACGATGTGCAGACGTCTCA
Gr59a	GCCAAAGTTCTTCGCCCCCGA	TCCAATCGCGTGCTGCTCTCG
Gr59b	CAGCCAAGCACTCGTGGAGTGA	TGGCAAACCACATGCTGCGATT
Gr59c	CCGAGTGCTGGCGGATCGAAC	CTGGCCAGTTGCAGTTGGAAGT
Gr59d	CGTCGATTGCTGGATCAACGCG	TCGACCAAACTCGAAAAGGCCG
Gr59e	CCTCTCTGGGAGGAGTCCGTGC	AGGGCAACGCCCATTAGCGACT
Gr59f	GCCATGCACGTGGGAAAGGTGT	ACATTGCCCTGAACCGACTTGGA
Gr5a	GCCTGCAACGTGCTCGTCCT	TTGAGCGGGACAAGGCGCAG
Gr61a	AAAGTGCGGCGCCAGAAGCA	GTGCGACCAGGAGCGAGCAA
Gr63a	CGCAAGAAGGGTGACGCGGTG	AAGGGTCCACTCAGGGAGCGC
Gr64a	CGCGTGCAATTGGCTGCCTTG	GTCCGCCGCCGTGAGGAATAC
Gr64b	GCCCGCGGTCTTTTGGACAGA	CATGGCCAGGACGAGTGAGCG
Gr64c	ATGCACTGGCGCATCAGGCA	CCGCCCTCGCAGAAGCTCTT

Gene	Forward	Reverse	
Gr64d	ACCGCGCCTGGATGGTGTTC	TGCACCACGGCACCTTGCAT	780
Gr64e	TGGCCACCACTTGCTCGCTG	ACGCCGCGTGTTAGCCGAAA	781
Gr64f	TCTGGCTAGGCAGTGGCCCC	GCATGGGCCACCGATGGCAT	
Gr66a	GAGGACCGCAGCCTAAAGGCC	CGCGGTCAACTGGTCGGAGAC	782
Gr77a	CGCAGTTCAGGCCGTCTGCTT	CCACAGGCGCTGACGGCAAATA	
Gr85a	CTCTCGCCTACATGGCACGC	ATAGTGACGTGCGTGTGCTGC	783
Gr89a	GCTGCATGGAGTTCCCCTGACC	ACATTGCCAGTGGGCGTGAGC	784
Gr8a	ACATACGCATCGCCGTGGACTG	ATGTAGGTGCCCACGGAACAGG	
Gr92a	TGTCTCCGTTGAGGGAGCGGT	TGGGTGACATCGAATAGGCCCA	785
Gr93a	GGTGAGGCAGTCAGAAGTGCC	CCTCGGACGCCTCAAAGCCAC	
Gr93b	ACCACGCCATTCTGCGAAGAC	GCCCAAAGGAAACACTCGCAGC	786
Gr93c	TGCGACGCCTGAGTCTGGAGA	CCCAAGGGTCTAACGCGAAACTGC	787
Gr93d	ACTCGGGAACGTGCTCTGGAT	AGAGGCCCAACAAGTTAACCCTGA	
Gr97a	TGCGTCGCTTCTGCGAGTTAGC	GCGTGCTGCAGATCGAATCGC	788
Gr98a	GTTGAGCACACAAGGGTGGCTG	GCTGTTGCTTGCTGCTGCTCTGA	789
Gr98b	TTGGAGGCTGGAGGGCGATGT	ATGGTGACAAGCAACCCGCCA	
Gr98c	GCCAGGATTCAGGAGCTGTGCG	CGCTGGTATTTTGTCTGTAGCCCG	790
Gr98d	CTGGCTGGACGCATTTGGGGC	ATGTCAAAGAGGCCACCGCATGT	
Gr9a	TGTCCTCTGTCTGGGCGACTGG	ACAAGGGACACGAACTGCAGGA	791

792 **Table 5.** Nucleotide sequences for qRT-PCR primers for *D. melanogaster Gr* genes.

Species	*Gr8a* Forward Primer	*Gr8a* Reverse Primer
D. melanogaster	TGACCATCAACATACGCATCG	CGTATATGAAGGCGGGAATCTC
D. simulans	GAACTTTTCGCTGCAACTCC	ACTTCGGTATAAACTGGATGGTG
D. sechellia	GAGATTCCCGCCTTCATATACG	GAGTTGCAGCGAAAGTTCTG
D. erecta	CAGATTCAGAACTTTTCGCTGC	GGTGTAGATCATGTAGGTGCC
D. yakuba	TGCCTCGGACTAACAATTCTG	GTGTAGATCATGTAGGTGCCC
D. ananassae	AATGTACCGAAGTTTCCAGGG	GCGGGTATGATCAGGAAATAGTC
D. pseudoobscura	CCCGTTTCCGTGACAATATTG	ACCATCTACATATCCGTTGCC
D. persimilis	TTTCGCTTCTCCACACTGAC	AGGCGGGCAATATCAAAGAG
D. willistoni	GAAATGTTGCCCAGAATAGCC	CCCAAAGCATGTATAACCACTG
D. virilis	TCTTCAGATCCAAAACTTTTCGC	TTGGGCATCAGTTGTACGG
D. mojavensis	CATATACCCGCCTTTCTCTACAC	GTTCGTGCAGAATTTGTAGCG

Species	*Rp49* Forward Primer	*Rp49* Reverse Primer
D. melanogaster	ATCTTGGGCCTGTATGCTG	TGTGATGGGAATTCGTGGG
D. simulans	GTCGGATCGATATGCTAAGCTG	CAGATACTGTCCCTTGAAGCG
D. sechellia	CATACAGGCCCAAGATCGTG	CAGATACTGTCCCTTGAAGCG
D. erecta	GTCGGATCGATATGCTAAGCTG	CAGATACTGTCCCTTGAAGCG
D. yakuba	CATACAGGCCCAAGATCGTG	GGCATCAGATACTGTCCCTTG
D. ananassae	TACAGGCCCAAGATCGTTAAG	GTACTGACCCTTGAAGCGAC
D. pseudoobscura	CCAGCTCCAAAATGACGATTC	TCAATACCCTTAGGCTTGCG
D. persimilis	AAGCACTTCATCCGTCACC	TCAATACCCTTAGGCTTGCG
D. willistoni	AAGCACTTCATCCGTCACC	GTTGGGCATCAGATATTGGC
D. virilis	AGTCGGATCGTTATGCTAAGTTG	TGGAGGGTACGCTTGTTTG
D. mojavensis	ACCATTCGTCCAGCATACAG	TTGGCCCTTGAAGCGAC

795 **Table 6.** Nucleotide sequences for qRT-PCR primers for *D. melanogaster Gr8a*, *Rp49*
796 and orthologs.

Gene	Forward Primer	Reverse Primer
desat1	TTCTGAACGTAACCTGGCTG	GGGAAGACGTGATGGTAGTTATG
desat2	TTTACTGGAATGAGACGCTGG	CTGGGTAGGATTCATGGTCTTG
Fad2	GTGCCTCAGTCTCAATCTCATC	GTGGTAGTTGTGGTATCCCTC
CG8630	ATGTGATGGCTAAGATCGGAC	TGGTCGGAATGGCACTATTG
CG9747	TCAAGTGGGACAAAGTCATCC	GCCGTAACTCCGAATCCG
CG9743	GGTACTTCTGGAACGAGGATC	TCAGTGGACATGAGGTTCTTG
CG15531	CTCAAGGATGTGGATATGTCGG	ATGGAGGTGGCTAGGGAG
rp49	CACCAAGCACTTCATCCG	TCGATCCGTAACCGATGT

798 **Table 7.** Nucleotide sequences for qRT-PCR primers for *D. melanogaster* desaturase

799 enzyme genes.

Compound	Genotype	Sex	ng/sample	ng/fly
C_{25}	wt	male	1350	270
C_{25}	wt	male	1170	234
C_{25}	wt	male	27730	5546
$9\text{-}C_{25}$	Gr8a-	male	67390	13478
$9\text{-}C_{25}$	Gr8a-	male	59380	11876
$9\text{-}C_{25}$	Gr8a-	male	1000	200
$7\text{-}C_{25}$	Gr8a-	male	43790	8758
$7\text{-}C_{25}$	Gr8a-	male	31330	6266
$7\text{-}C_{25}$	Gr8a-	male	24130	4826
$5\text{-}C_{25}$	Gr8a-	male	12050	2410
$5\text{-}C_{25}$	Gr8a-	male	14160	2832
$5\text{-}C_{25}$	Gr8a-	male	1870	374
C_{27}	Gr8a-	male	890	178
C_{27}	Gr8a-	male	720	144
C_{27}	Gr8a-	male	263	52.6
$7\text{-}C_{27}$	Gr8a-	male	36710	7342
$7\text{-}C_{27}$	Gr8a-	male	21250	4250
$7\text{-}C_{27}$	Gr8a-	male	15910	3182
C_{29}	wt	male	260	52
C_{29}	wt	male	340	68
C_{29}	wt	male	890	178
$9\text{-}C_{25}$	wt	female	14060	2812
$9\text{-}C_{25}$	wt	female	13830	2766
$7\text{-}C_{25}$	wt	female	23200	4640
$7\text{-}C_{25}$	wt	female	12780	2556
$7\text{-}C_{27}$	wt	female	1010	202
$7\text{-}C_{27}$	wt	female	1080	216

802 **Table 8.** Amount (ng) of each perfumed compound measured in each sample of perfumed

803 flies (5 flies per sample).