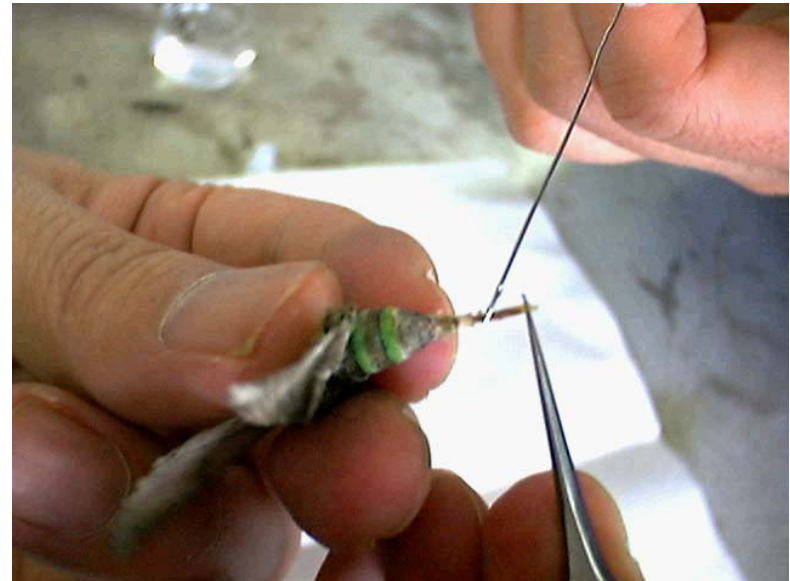


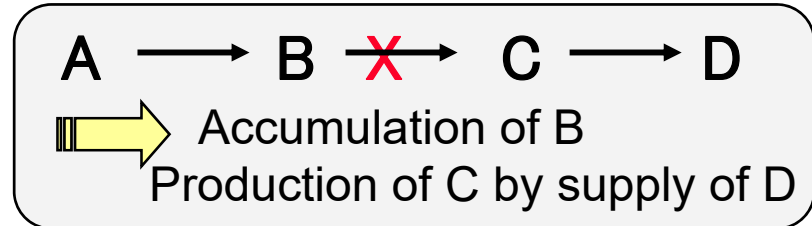
Biosynthesis of Lepidopteran Sex Pheromones

- I. Introduction: Experimental methods
to elucidate a biosynthetic pathway
- II. Biosynthetic studies with the silk moth
- III. Biosynthetic pathways of lepidopteran sex pheromones
 - A) Biosynthesis of Type I pheromones
 - B) Biosynthesis of Type II pheromones
- IV. Enzymatic studies on the biosynthesis of sex pheromones
 - A) Desaturases
 - B) Acyl reductases
- V. Inhibitors of sex pheromone
biosynthesis
- VI. Biosynthesis of methyl-
branched pheromones



I. Introduction: Experimental methods for elucidation of biosynthetic pathway

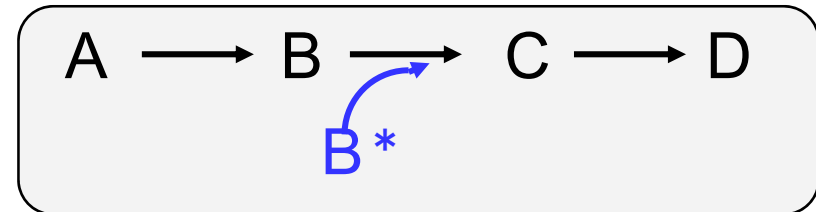
1. Use of mutants



2. Feeding experiments of
a labeled precursor

Stable isotope ^2H (D), ^{13}C

Analysis by GC-MS or NMR



Radio isotope ^3H (T), ^{14}C , ^{11}C

Analysis by autoradiography → Chemical structure ?

→ problem

Pheromone component: ultra trace substance

→ problem

Application of an exogenous precursor

→ Possible disturbance of original biosynthetic system

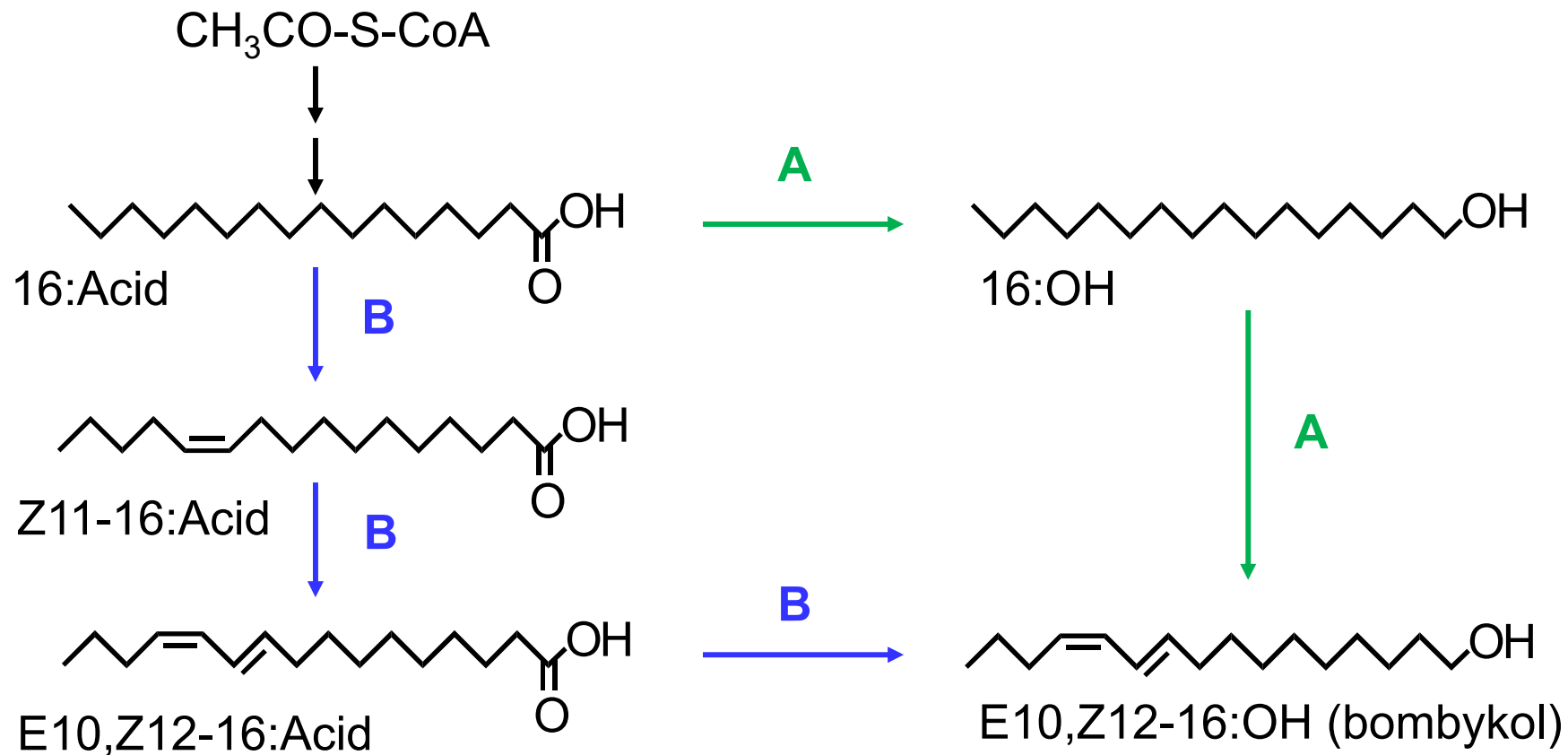
Ex) In the case of 1% incorporation of palmitic acid

^{14}C -label (specific activity 50 mCi/mmol) 500 dpm → 50,000 dpm

D-label 10 ng → 1000 ng = 1 mg = 100 ng

II. Biosynthetic studies with the silk moth

a) Proposed biosynthetic pathways of bombykol



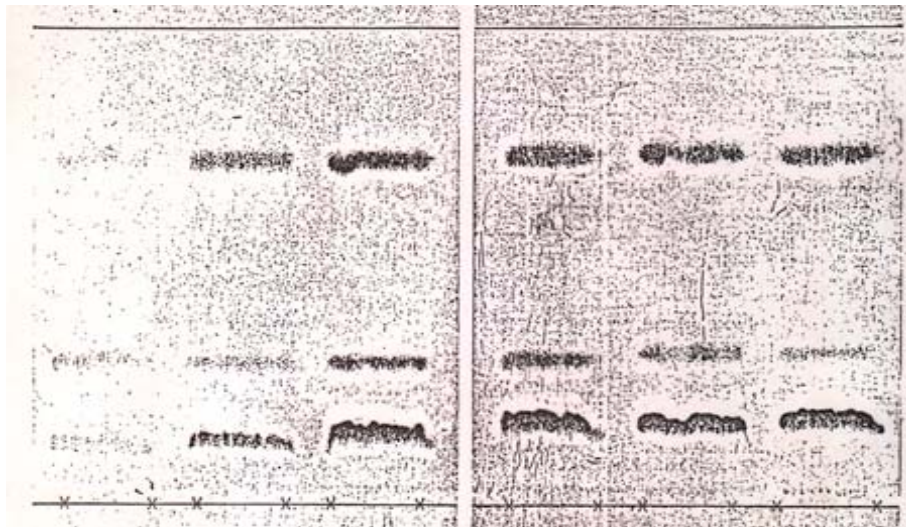
A Inoue & Hamamura, 1972. *Nippon Nogeikagaku Kaishi*, **46**: 645

B Yamaoka *et al.*, 1984. *Experientia*, **48**: 80

Bjostad & Roelofs, 1984. *Insect Biochem.*, **14**: 275

b) Conversion of palmitic acid (16:Acid)

TLC (autoradiography)



i ii iii iv v vi
solvent: benzene + ethyl acetate (4:1)

- i [1-¹⁴C]12:Acid
- ii [1-¹⁴C]14:Acid
- iii [1-¹⁴C]16:Acid
- iv [16-¹⁴C]16:Acid
- v [1-¹⁴C]18:Acid
- vi [18-¹⁴C]18:Acid

A: triacylglycerols

B: alcohols

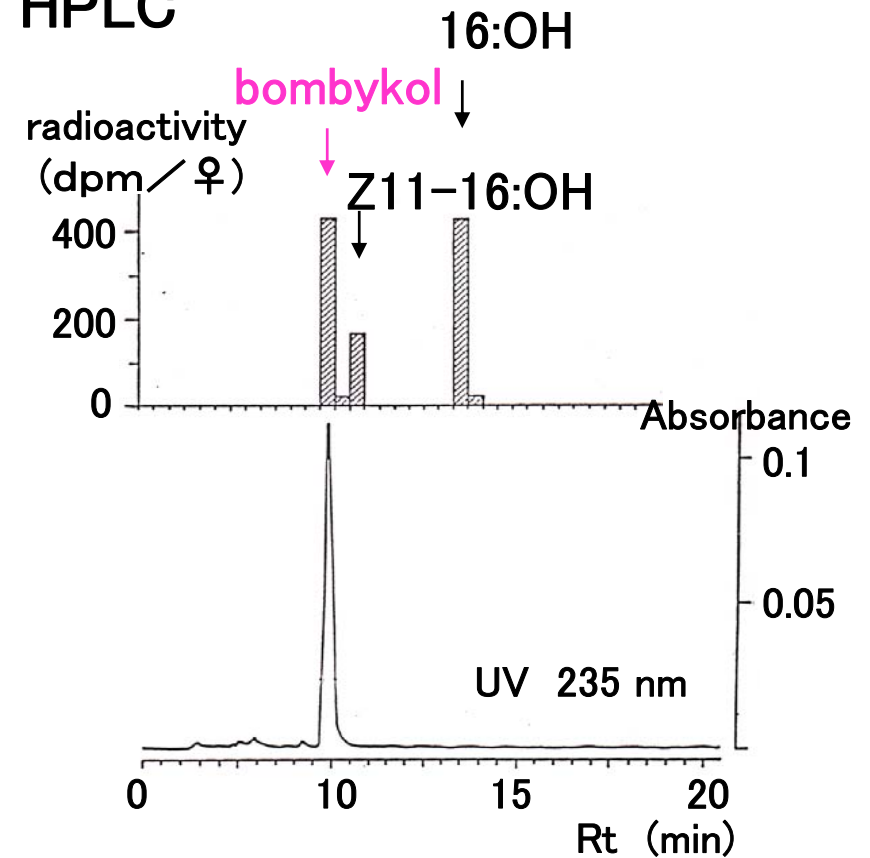
C: acids (recovery)

A

B

C

HPLC



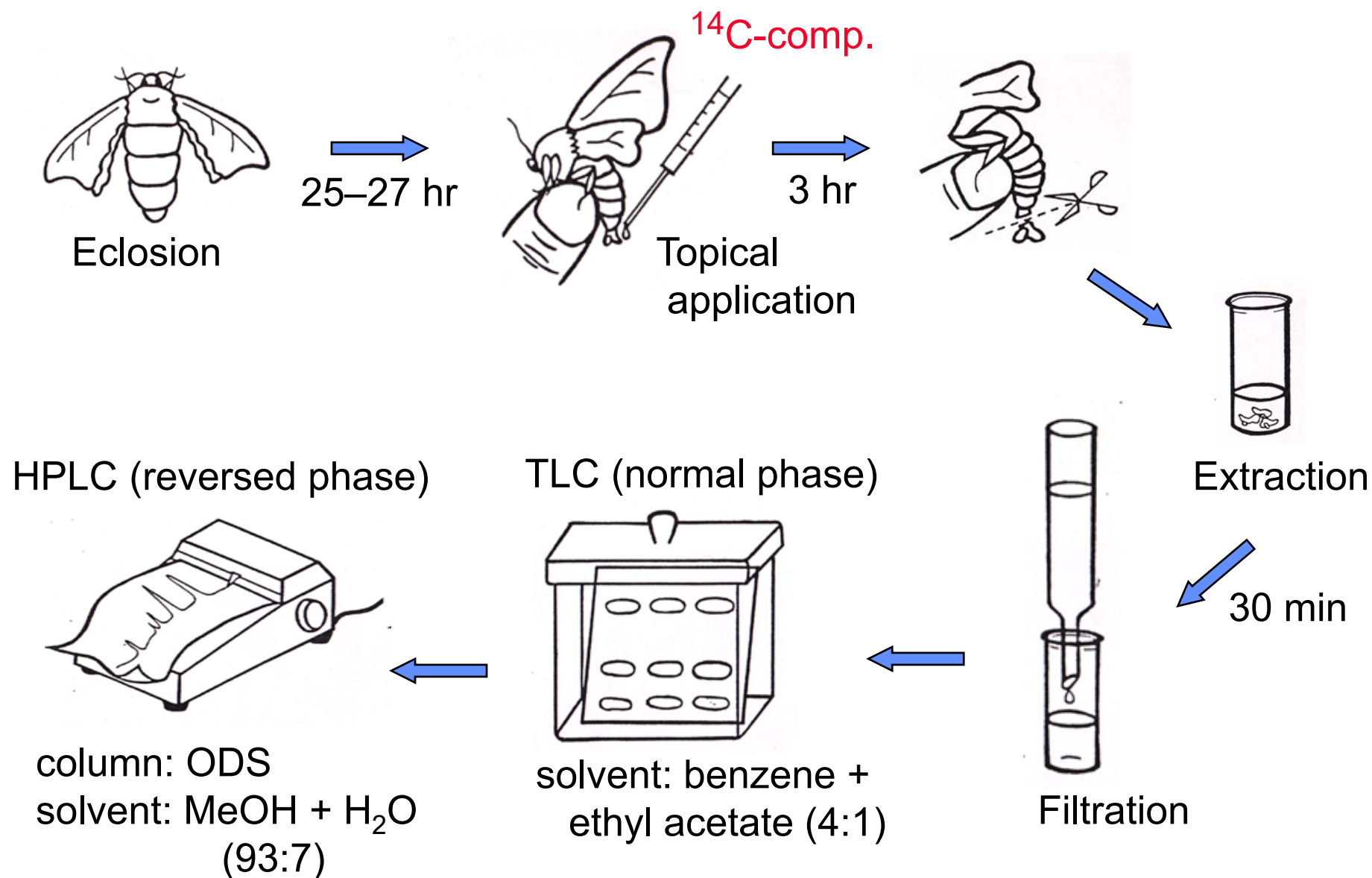
column: ODS (8 mm X 15 cm)
solvent: MeOH + H₂O (93:7)

c) Optimum incubation time for the incorporation

Incorporation ratios (%) of [16-¹⁴C]hexadecanoic acid
at different incubation times

	Incubation time (hr)				
	1	3	6	24	48
Band A (triacylglycerol)	7.2 ± 0.4	7.8 ± 0.9	4.3 ± 0.7	1.6 ± 0.4	1.1 ± 0.1
Fr. B-I (Bombykol)	1.5 ± 0.3	1.5 ± 0.4	1.1 ± 0.1	0.7 ± 0.3	0.4 ± 0.1
Fr. B-II (Z11-16:OH)	1.0 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.3	0.5 ± 0.2	0.2 ± 0.1	0.1 ± 0.0
Fr. B-III (16:OH)	1.7 ± 0.4	1.6 ± 0.4	0.9 ± 0.3	0.5 ± 0.2	0.3 ± 0.1
Band C (unconversion)	17.1 ± 2.0	11.1 ± 0.8	7.5 ± 1.2	5.2 ± 2.2	3.2 ± 0.8

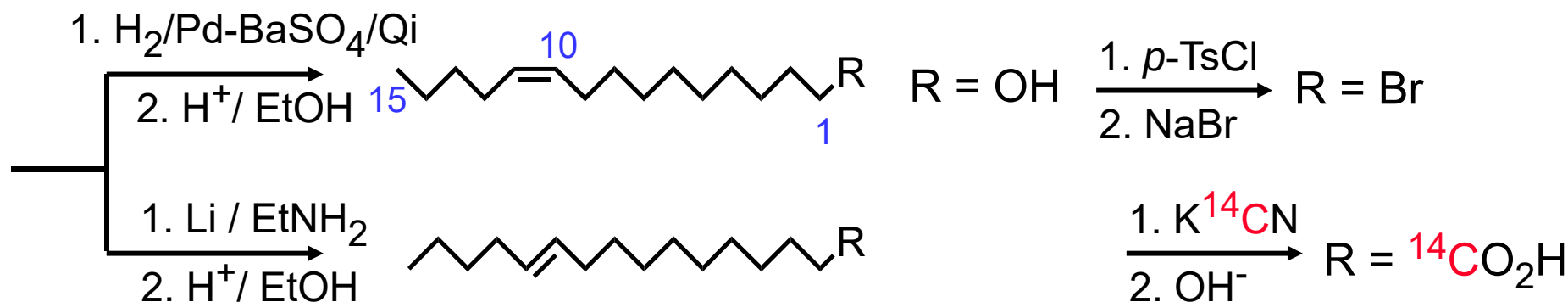
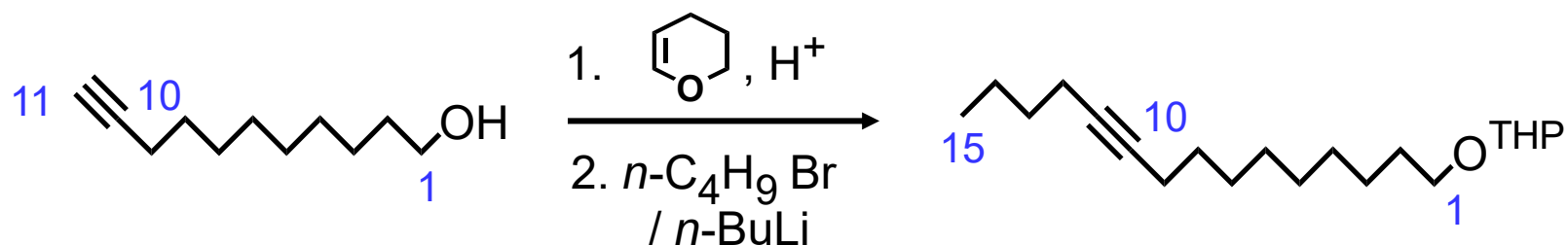
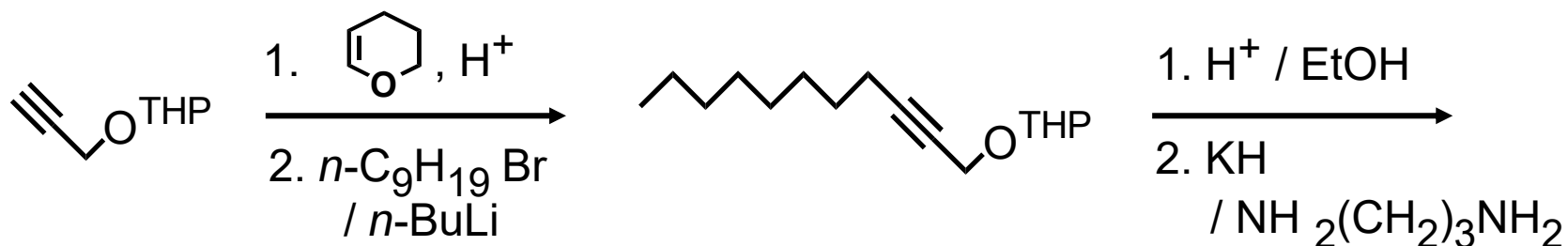
d) Experimental procedure



e) Synthesis of labeled precursor

Rule: Introduction of a label at the final step

Synthesis of [1-¹⁴C](Z)-11-hexadecenoic acid

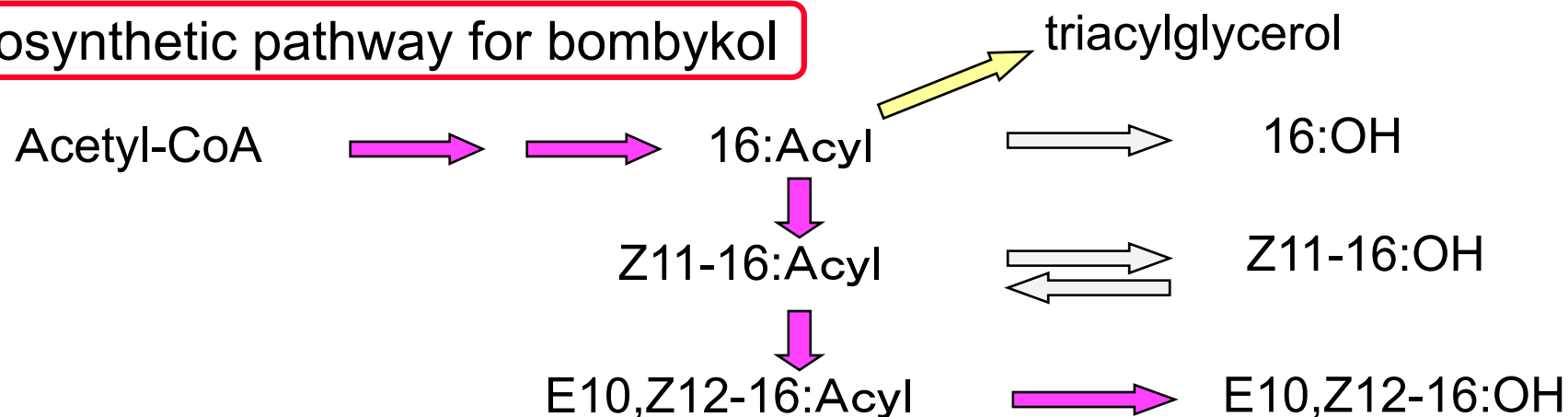


f) Comparing the incorporation of labeled compounds

¹⁴ C-Labeled compound	Incorporation ratio (%)	¹⁴ C-Labeled compound	Incorporation ratio (%)
[a] 12:Acid	0.2	[c] Z10-16:Acid	0.3
14:Acid	0.1	E10-16:Acid	0.4
16:Acid	1.7	E11-16:Acid	0.2
18:Acid	0.1	Z12-16:Acid	0.4
		E12-16:Acid	0.5
[b] 16:OH	0.2		
Z11-16:OH	0.9		
Z11-16:Acid	3.3		

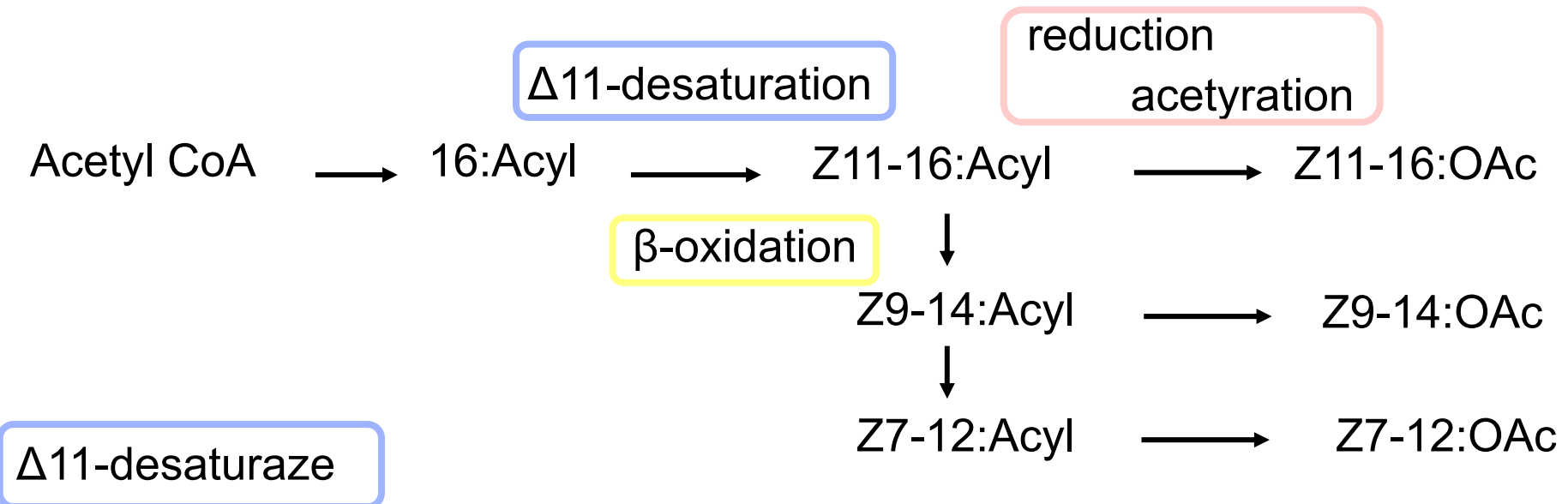
Ando et al., 1988. *Agric. Biol. Chem.*, **52**: 473

Biosynthetic pathway for bombykol



III. Biosynthetic pathways of lepidopteran sex pheromones

A) Biosynthesis of Type I pheromones



Cloning of a gene from the cabbage looper, *Trichoplusia ni*

Gene expression in yeast (Knipple *et al.*, *ProNAS USA*, **95**: 15287, 1998)

β -oxidase ?

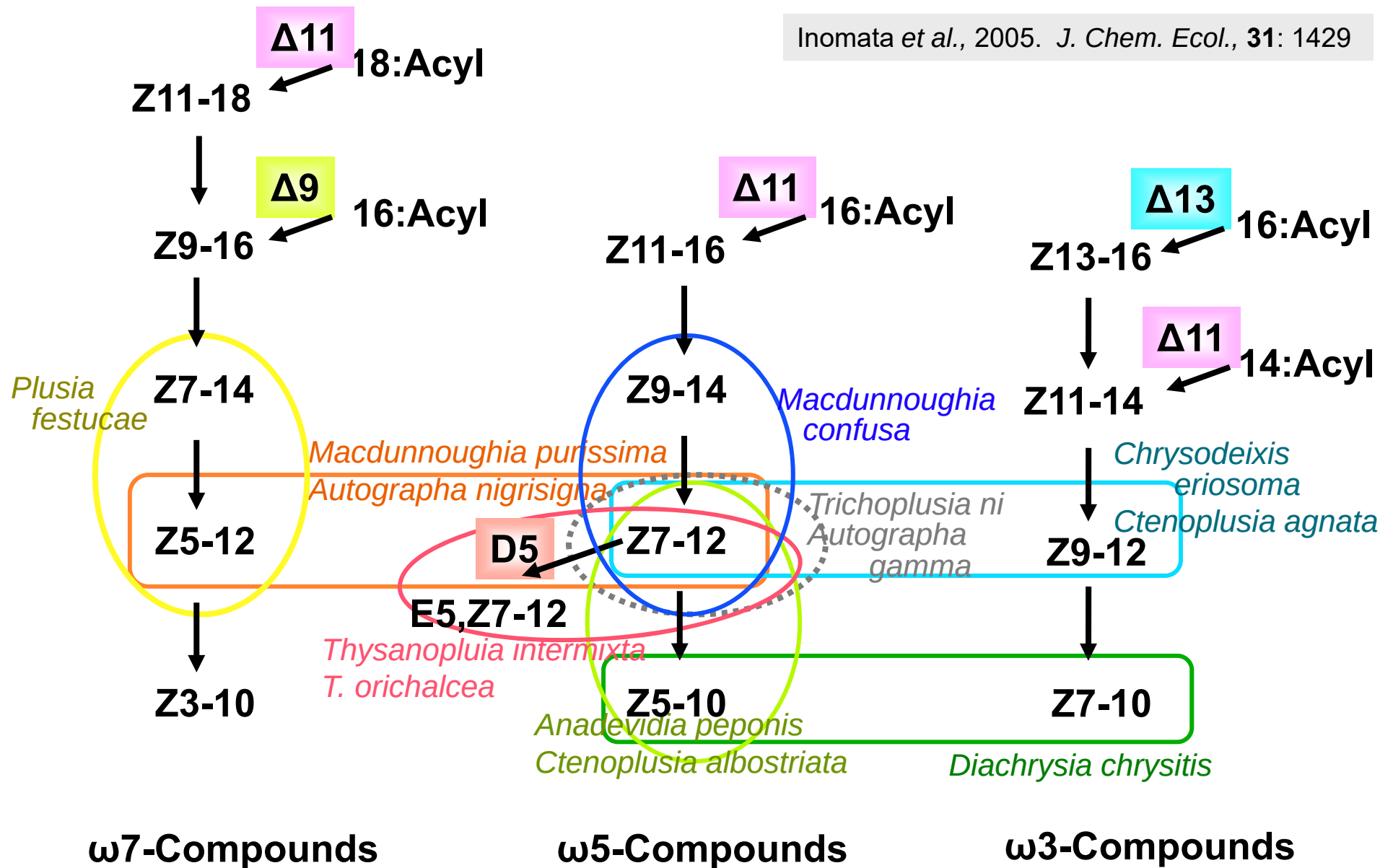
reductase, acetyl transferase

$\leftarrow$ low substrate specificity

Further subjects: Mechanism of desaturation with positional specificity and controlling a ratio of the pheromone blend

a) Biosynthetic pathways of Plusiinae pheromones

Inomata et al., 2005. *J. Chem. Ecol.*, 31: 1429



b) Double-bond positions of monoenyl pheromones

Ando et al., 2004. *Top. Curr. Chem.*, **239**: 51

(i) Monoene compounds

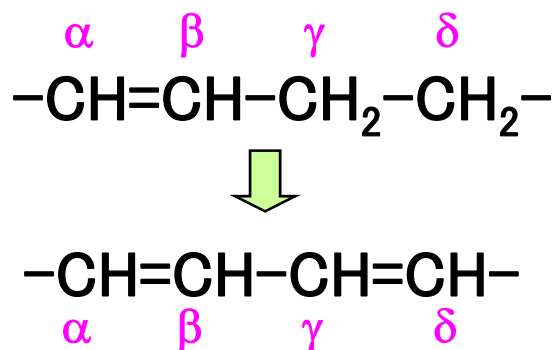
Chain	Double bond position															
length	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
C-10									—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
C-12											—	—	—	—	—	
C-14													—	—	—	
C-16															—	
C-18																

(ii) Diene compounds

[illegible]

c) Biosynthesis of dienyl pheromones ①

(i) α -monoene
 $\rightarrow \alpha,\gamma$ -diene



Spodoptera littoralis (Noctuidae)

E11-14 $\rightarrow$ Z9,E11-14:OAc

Epiphyas postvittana (Tortricidae)

E11-16 $\rightarrow$ E9-14 $\rightarrow$ E9,E11-14:OAc

Thysanoplusia intermixta (Noctuidae)

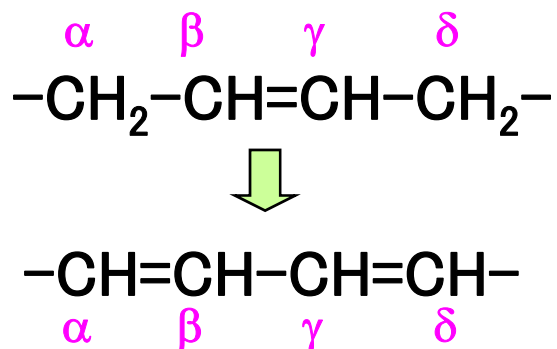
Z11-16 $\rightarrow$ Z7-12 $\rightarrow$ E5,Z7-12:OAc

Dendrolimus punctatus (Lasiocampidae)

Z11-18 $\rightarrow$ Z9-16 $\rightarrow$ Z9,E11-16

$\rightarrow$ Z5,E7-12:OH

(ii) β -monoene
 $\rightarrow \alpha,\gamma$ -diene



Bombyx mori (Bombycidae)

Z11-16 $\rightarrow$ E10,Z12-16:OH

Manduca sexta (Sphingidae)

Z11-16 $\rightarrow$ E10,Z12-16:Ald,
 $+ \text{E10,E12-16:Ald}$

Cydia pomonella (Tortricidae)

E9-12 $\rightarrow$ E8,E10-12:OH

c) Biosynthesis of dienyl pheromones ② (References)

(i) α -monoene $\rightarrow$ α,γ -diene

Spodoptera littoralis (Noctuidae)

E11-14 $\rightarrow$ Z9,E11-14:OAc

Dunkelblum & Kehat, 1987. *Insect Biochem.*, **17**: 877

Martinez *et al.*, 1990. *J. Biol. Chem.*, **265**: 1381

Epiphyas postvittana (Tortricidae)

E11-16 $\rightarrow$ E9-14 $\rightarrow$ E9,E11-14:OAc

Foster & Roelofs, 1990. *Experientia*, **46**: 269

Thysanoplusia intermixta (Noctuidae)

Z11-16 $\rightarrow$ Z7-12 $\rightarrow$ E5,Z7-12:OAc

Ono *et al.*, 2002. *IBMB*, **32**: 701

Dendrolimus punctatus (Lasiocampidae)

Z11-18 $\rightarrow$ Z9-16 $\rightarrow$ Z9,E11-16

Zhao *et al.*, 2004. *IBMB*, **34**: 261

$\rightarrow$ Z5,E7-12:OH

(ii) β -monoene $\rightarrow$ α,γ -diene

Bombyx mori (Bombycidae)

Z11-16 $\rightarrow$ E10,Z12-16:OH

Yamaoka *et al.*, 1984. *Experientia*, **40**: 80

Roelofs & Bjostad, 1984. *Bioorg. Chem.*, **12**: 279

Ando *et al.*, 1988. *Agric. Biol. Chem.*, **52**: 473

Manduca sexta (Sphingidae)

Z11-16 $\rightarrow$ E10,Z12-16:Ald,

Fang *et al.*, 1995. *IBMB*, **25**: 39

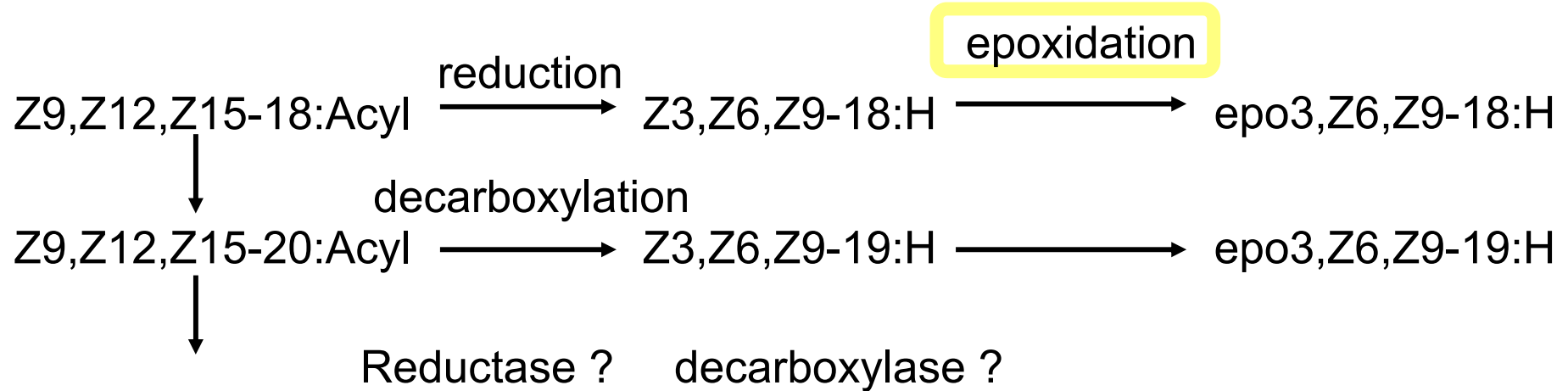
E10,E12-16:Ald

Cydia pomonella (Tortricidae)

E9-12 $\rightarrow$ E8,E10-12:OH

Löfstedt & Bengtsson, 1988. *JCE*, **14**: 903

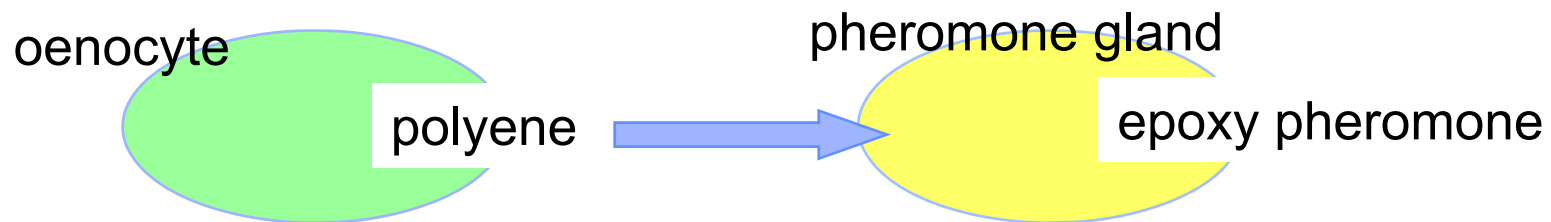
B) Biosynthesis of Type II pheromones



epoxidase (P_{450} -dependent mono-oxygenase)

High-selective attack of a double-bond
under low substrate specificity

Unsaturated hydrocarbons (polyenes) are combined with lipophorin and moved to a pheromone gland



Ando et al., 2008. *J. Pestic. Sci.*, **33**: 17

Further subject: Experimental confirmation of steps for hydrocarbon formation

IV. Enzymatic studies on the biosynthesis of sex pheromones

A) Desaturases

a) History of the research ①

Δ 11-Desaturase Knipple *et al.*, 1998. *PNAS*, **95**: 15287

Cloning of a gene from the cabbage looper, *Trichoplusia ni*
pheromone: Z7-12:OAc $\leftarrow$ Z11-16:Acyl

primers: Δ 9-desaturases of rat and yeast

Gene expression in yeast, a desaturase deficient strain,
because of the desaturation helped by two other enzymes,
NADH-cytochrome *b5* reductase (flavoprotein)
and cytochrome *b5* (hemoprotein)

Following related studies

Δ 11-Desaturase of the silk moth Yoshiga *et al.*, 2000. *Gene*, **246**: 339

Δ 9-Desaturase of the cabbage looper Liu *et al.*, 1999. *IBMB*, **29**: 435

Δ 9- and Δ 11-Desaturase of the corn earworm (*Helicoverpa zea*)

Rosenfield *et al.*, 2001. *IBMB*, **31**: 949

a) History of the research ②

$\Delta 9$ - and $\Delta 10$ -Desaturase of *Planotortrix octo*, a leafroller in New Zealand

Hao *et al.*, 2002. *IBMB*, **32**: 961

pheromone (Z8-14:OAc) with a unusual structure

← common pheromone component of leafrollers: Z11-14:OAc

Homology (%)	<u>Plo-Z9</u>	<u>Trn-Z9</u>	<u>Hez-9</u>	<u>Trn-Z11</u>	<u>Hez-Z11</u>
<u>Plo-Z9</u>	-	73	80		
<u>Plo-Z10</u>	62	62	61	66	66

Studies until 2007

[see e) List ① & ②]

Helicoverpa assulta Jeong *et al.*, 2003. *IBMB*, **33**: 609

Choristoneura parallela Liu *et al.*, 2004. *Gene*, **342**: 303 *etc.*

Noctuidae 5 species

Tortricidae 5 species

Crambidae 2 species

Bombycidae 1 species

b) Formation of (E)-double bonds

Biosynthesis of typical pheromones of leafroller moths

Δ 11-Desaturase of *Argyrotaenia velutinana*, redbanded leafroller

Liu *et al.*, 2002. *IBMB*, **32**: 1489

Pheromone: Z11-14:OAc + E11-14:OAc (92:8)

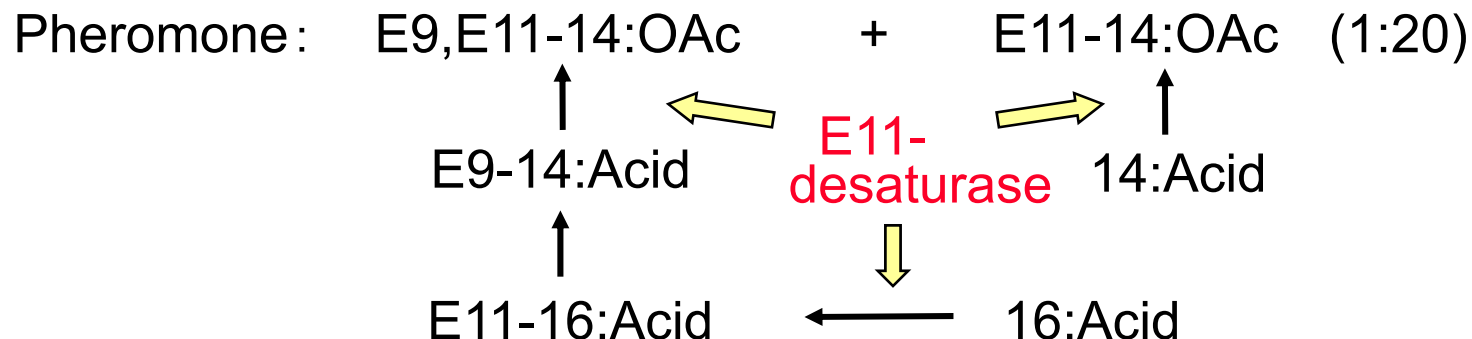
Unsaturated fatty acid: 3:2 Z/E ratio $\leftarrow$ 14:Acid (substrate)

Gene expression of Δ 11-desaturase in yeast $\Rightarrow$ 6:1 Z/E ratio

E11-Desaturase of *Epiphyas postvittana*, lightbrown apple moth

Liu *et al.*, 2002. *PNAS*, **99**: 620

Cloning of desaturases $\Rightarrow$ two genes (E9 and Z9) from pheromone glands
one gene (Z9) from fat bodies



c) Desaturases of a noctuid moth, *Spodoptera littoralis*

Rodriguez *et al.*, 2004. *IBMB*, **34**: 1315

Pheromone: Z9,E11-14:OAc (main) + E10,E12-14:OAc (minor)



Cloning of desaturases $\Rightarrow$ four genes

#1 from fat bodies, #2 - #4 from pheromone glands

Feeding experiments with three fatty acids (14:Acid, 16:Acid, and 18:Acid)

#1 ($\Delta 9$) Z9-16/Z9-18 = 1 : 4.5 (also 14:Acid $\rightarrow$ Z9-14)

#2 ($\Delta 9$) Z9-16/Z9-18 = 1.5 : 1 (also 14:Acid $\rightarrow$ Z9-14)

However, 14:Acid + E11-14:Acid $\rightarrow$ only Z9,E11-14:Acid

#3 ($\Delta 11$) E11-14/Z11-14/Z11-16/Z11-18 = 5:4:60:31

#4 (?) no functions

Serra *et al.*, 2006. *IBMB*, **36**: 634

#3 ($\Delta 11$)
Z11-14:Acid $\longrightarrow$ E10,E12-14:Acid $\Rightarrow$ bifunctional enzyme

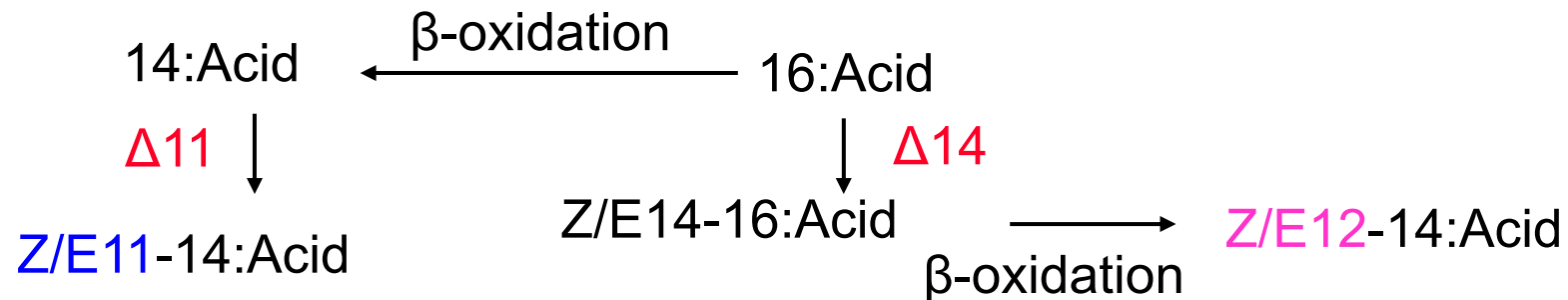
d) Desaturases of corn bores,

Ostrinia spp. (Pyraloidea: Crambidae)

Roelofs *et al.*, 2002. *PNAS*, **99**: 13621

European corn borer (*Ostrinia nubilalis*) pheromone: **Z/E11**-14:OAc

Asian corn borer (*Ostrinia furnacalis*) pheromone: **Z/E12**-14:OAc



Their host plants are same, but reproductive isolation is accomplished by geometrical and pheromone system.

Which is an original species? Is it speculaed by enzymatic analysis?

Cloning of genes from pheromone glands

⇒ Presence of similar thee cDNAs ($\Delta 11$ -, $\Delta 14$ -, and $\Delta 9$ -desaturases) in the both species

Expression of $\Delta 11$ -gene in *O. nubilalis*, and $\Delta 14$ -gene in *O. furnacalis*

e) List of identified desaturase genes ①

Published until 2007

Desaturation		Species	(Family)	Reference
Z9	← 16	<i>Helicoverpa zea</i>	(Noct.)	Rosenfield <i>et al.</i> , 2001
		<i>Helicoverpa assulta</i>	(Noct.)	Jeong <i>et al.</i> , 2003
	← E11-14	<i>Spodoptera littoralis</i>	(Noct.)	Rosenfield <i>et al.</i> , 2004
Z10	← 14	<i>Planotortrix octo</i>	(Tort.)	Hao <i>et al.</i> , 2002(a)
Z11	← 16	<i>Trichoplusia ni</i>	(Noct.)	Knipple <i>et al.</i> , 2001
		<i>H. zea</i>	(Noct.)	Rosenfield <i>et al.</i> , 2001
		<i>H. assulta</i>	(Noct.)	Jeong <i>et al.</i> , 2003
		<i>Bombyx mori</i>	(Bomb.)	Moto <i>et al.</i> , 2004
		<i>Manduca sexta</i>	(Sphi.)	Matouskova <i>et al.</i> , 2007
E11	←14,16	<i>Epiphyas postvittana</i>	(Tort.)	Liu <i>et al.</i> , 2002
	← E9-14	<i>E. Postvittana</i>	(Tort.)	Liu <i>et al.</i> , 2002
	← 14	<i>Choristoneura parallela</i>	(Tort.)	Liu <i>et al.</i> , 2004

e) List of identified desaturase genes ②

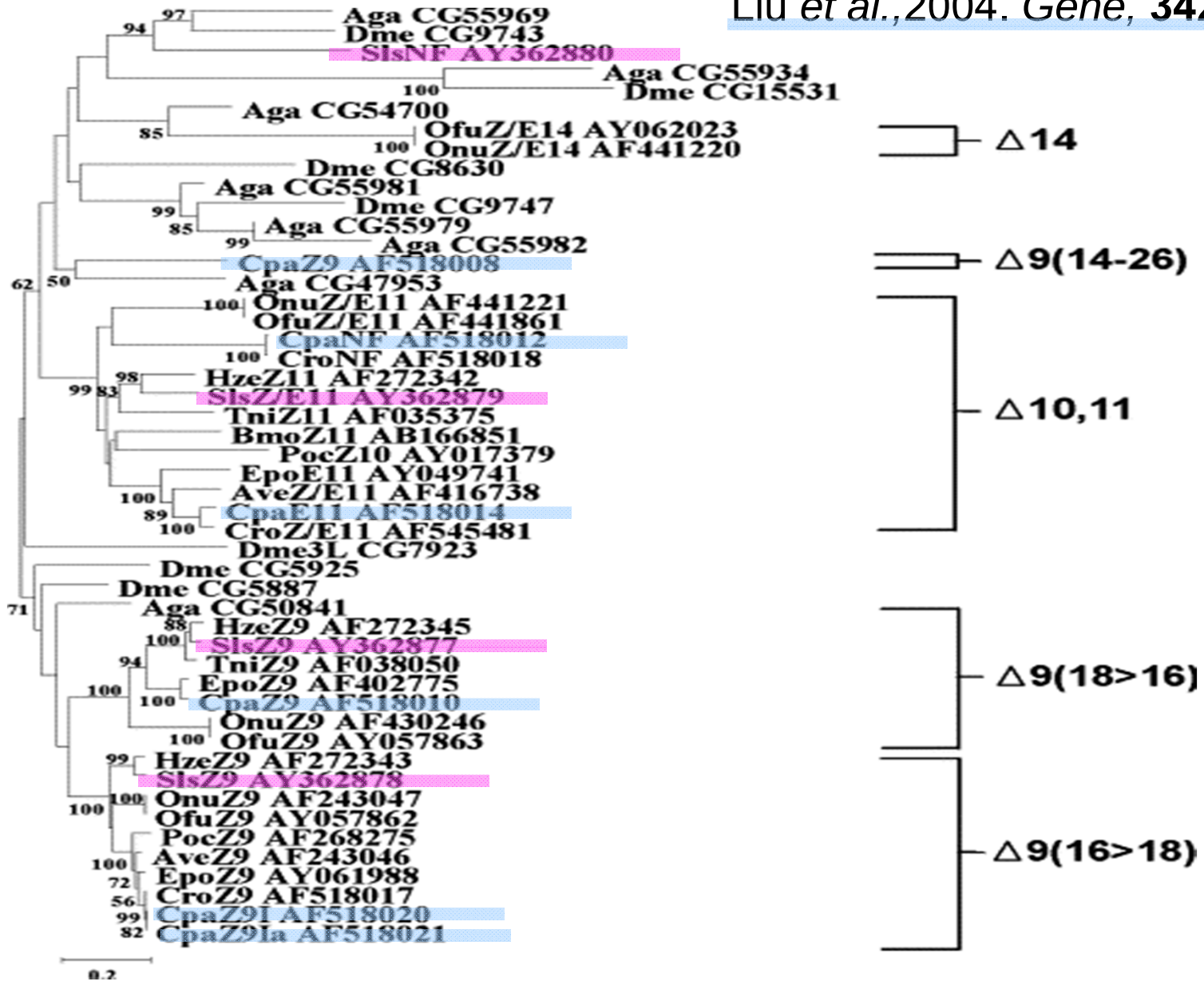
Published until 2007

Desaturation		Species	(Family)	Reference
Z/E11	←14	<i>Argyrotaenia velutinana</i>	(Tort.)	Liu <i>et al.</i> , 2002
		<i>Choristoneura rosaceana</i>	(Tort.)	Hao <i>et al.</i> , 2002(b)
		<i>Ostrinia furnacalis</i>	(Cram.)	Roelofs <i>et al.</i> , 2002
		<i>Ostrinia nubilalis</i>	(Cram.)	Roelofs <i>et al.</i> , 2002
		<i>S. littoralis</i>	(Noct.)	Rodriguez <i>et al.</i> , 2004
		<i>Ostrinia scapularis</i>	(Cram.)	Fukuzawa <i>et al.</i> , 2006
Z/E14	←16	<i>O. furnacalis</i>	(Cram.)	Roelofs <i>et al.</i> , 2002
		<i>O. nubilalis</i>	(Cram.)	Roelofs <i>et al.</i> , 2002
E10,Z12	←16	<i>B. mori</i>	(Bomb.)	Moto <i>et al.</i> , 2004
	← Z11-16	<i>M. sexta</i>	(Sphi.)	Matouskova <i>et al.</i> , 2007

f) Phylogeny

Rodriguez *et al.*, 2004. *IBMB* **34**: 1315

Liu *et al.*, 2004. *Gene*, **342**: 303



B) Acyl reductase

Identification from silk moth

Moto *et al.*, 2003. *PNAS*, **100**: 9156

PCR experiment with a primer of a plant reductase gene

- ➡ Cloning of the cDNA encoding 460 amino acids,
which include an NAD(P)H-binding motif
- ➡ Gene expression in yeast in order to detect the enzymatic activity

Substrate specificity

Saturated fatty acids

16:Acid, 15:Acid >> 17:Acid >> 14:Acid

Monoenyl fatty acids

Z11-16:Acid, E11-16:Acid > E9-16:Acid > Z9-16:Acid

Dienyl fatty acids

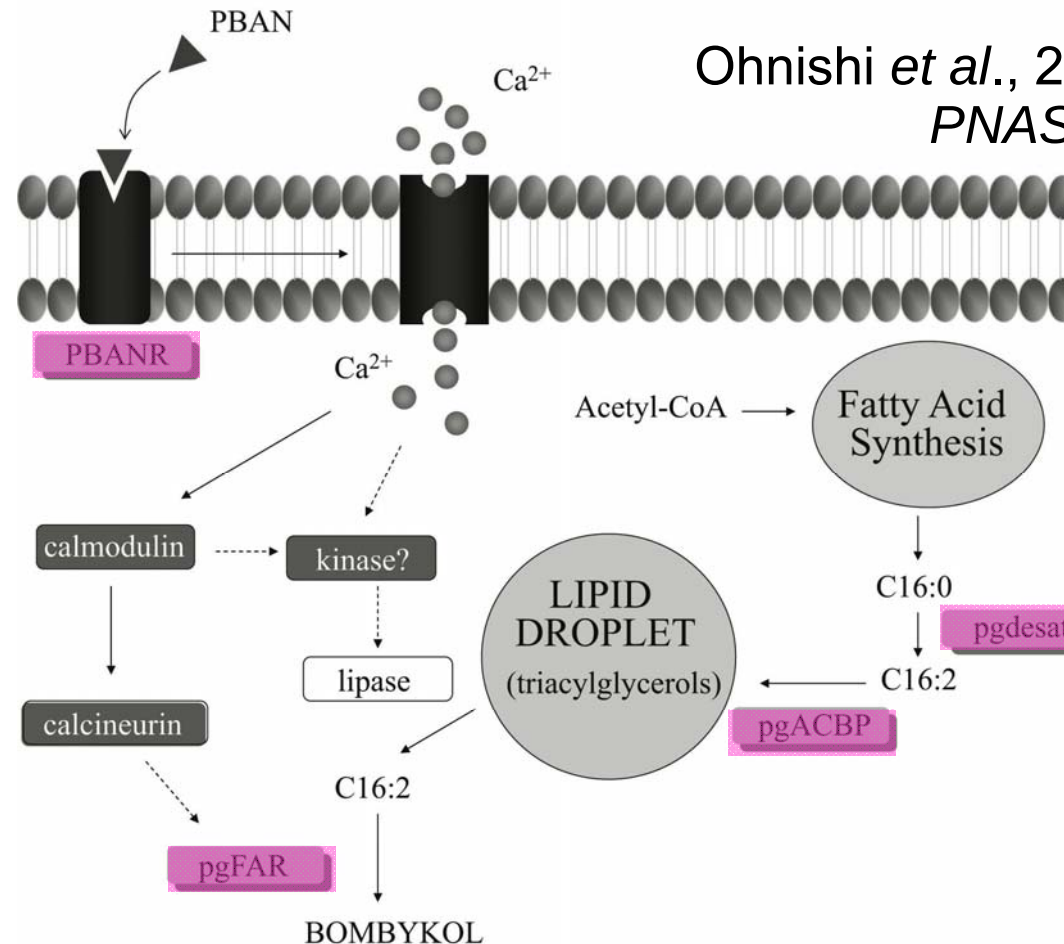
E10Z12-16:Acid >> E10,E12-16:Acid

C) RNAi (gene knockdown effects of RNA interference)

Experiment with the silk moth

Targeted genes related to the pheromone biosynthesis

desaturase (pgdesat1), Acyl-CoA binding protein (pgACBP)
reductase (pgFAR), PBAN receptor (PBANR)



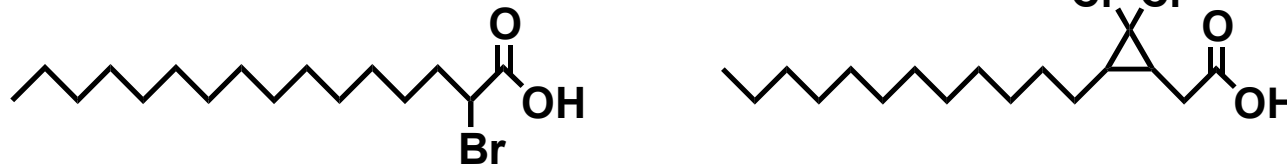
Ohnishi *et al.*, 2006.
PNAS, **103**: 4399

V. Inhibitors of sex pheromone biosynthesis

A) Inhibitors of β -oxidation

Rosell *et al.*, 1992. *IBMB*, **22**: 679

Hernanz *et al.*, 1997. *J. Lipid Res.*, **38**: 1988



B) Inhibitors of desaturation

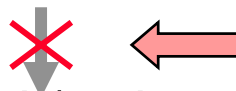
Norflurazon (inhibitor of phytoene in plants): no inhibition

a) Cyclopropenyl compounds

Fogerty *et al.*, 1972. *Lipids*, **7**: 335

18:Acid (stearic acid)

Δ^9 -desaturation



Z9-18:Acid (oleic acid)

sterculic acid



Inhibition of pheromone biosynthesis



Spodoptera littoralis (Noctuidae)

pheromone: **Z9,E11-14:OAc**

R: CO₂H

Arsequell *et al.*, 1989. *Insect Biochem.*, **19**: 949

Gosalbo *et al.*, 1992. *IBMB*, **22**: 687

1994. *Arch. Insect Biochem. Physiol.*, **26**: 279

Fabrias *et al.*, 1996. *J. Lipid Res.*, **37**: 1503

R: CH₂OH

Rodriguez *et al.*, 2004. *IBMB*, **34**: 283

Thaumetopoea pityocampa (Notodontidae)

pheromone: **≡11,Z13-16:OAc**

R: CO₂H

Rodriguez *et al.*, 2004. *IBMB.*, **34**: 283

Bombyx mori (Bombycidae)

pheromone: **E10,Z12-16:OH**

R: CO₂H

Ando *et al.*, 1995. *J. Pestic Sci.*, **20**: 25

CO₂NH₂

1996. *J. Agric. Food Chem.*, **44**: 3350

1998. *Arch. Insect Biochem. Physiol.*, **37**: 8

b) Fluorinated compounds

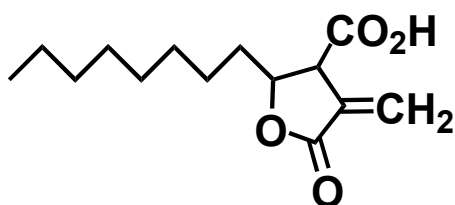


Spodoptera littoralis (Noctuidae) 14:Acid → E11-14:Acid

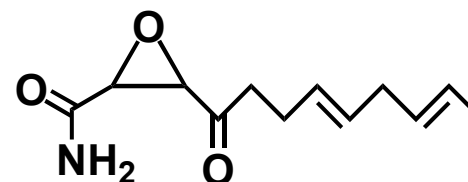
Abad *et al.*, 2003. *Lipids*, **38**: 865

C) Effect of lipid biosynthesis inhibitors

Choi & Jurenka, 2006. *J. Asia-Pacific Entomol.*, **9**: 43



cerulenin



C75

VI. Biosynthesis of methyl branched pheromones

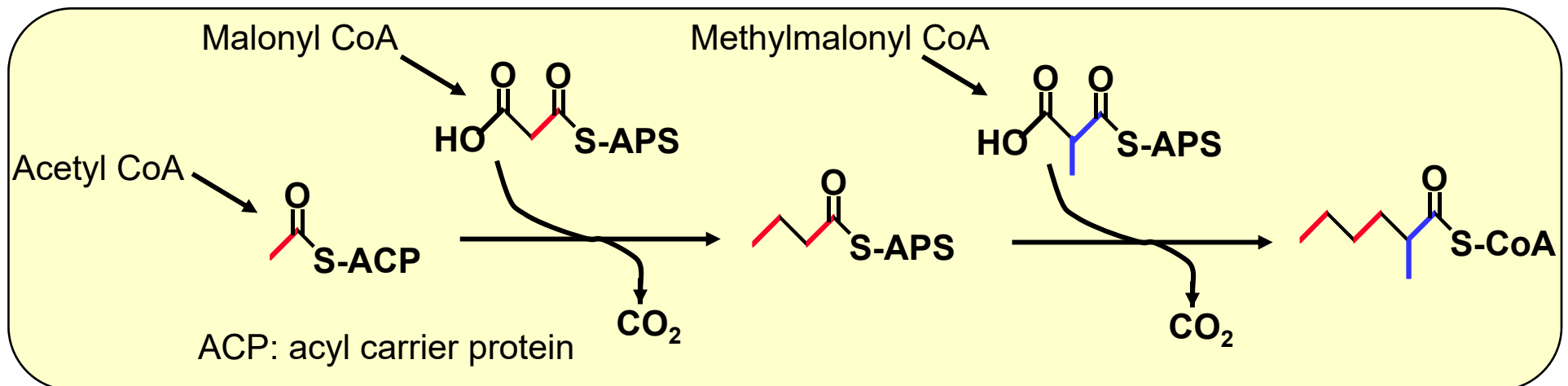
Questions for the biosynthesis of non-terpene pheromones

1) Construction of a carbon skeleton

From which compound a methyl branch is derived?

2) Formation of a functional group

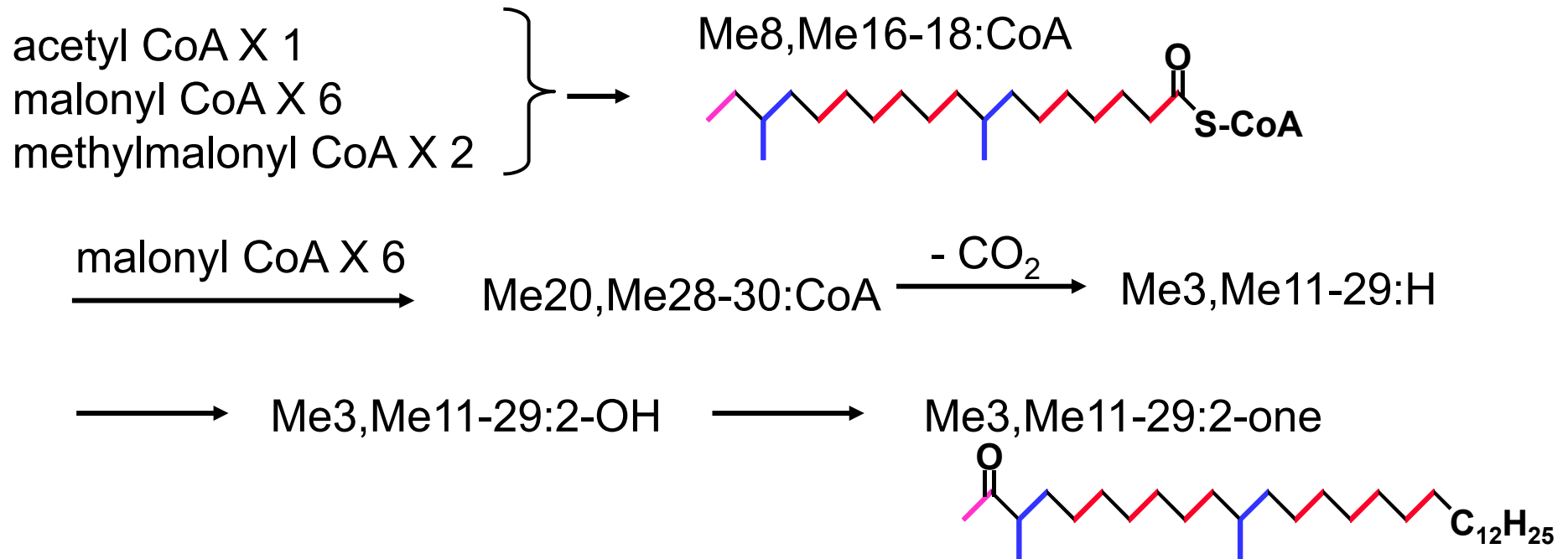
A) Incorporation of propanoate chains (propanogenins)



Most common process to introduce a methyl branch of non-terpene compounds, which is catalyzed by polyketide synthases (PKS) or fatty acid synthases (FAS)

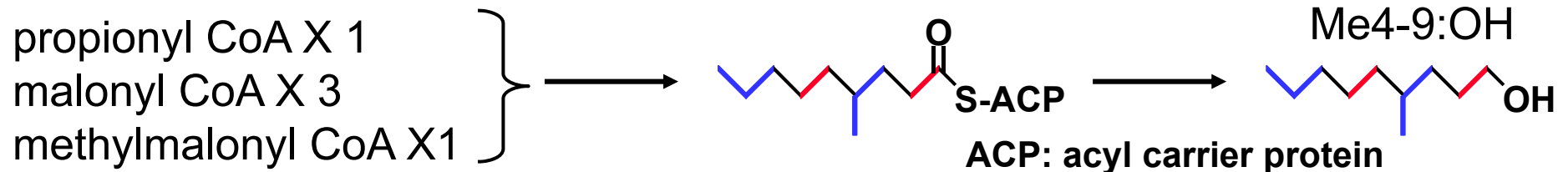
a) German cockroach

Chase *et al.*, 1992. *PNAS*, **89**: 6050



b) Mealworm beetle (*Tenebrio molitor*)

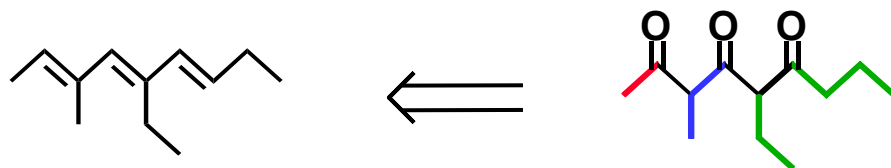
Islam *et al.*, 1999. *BMB*, **29**: 201



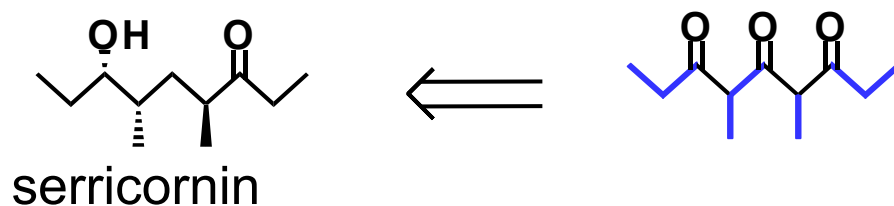
Feeding experiments of diets with ^2H - and ^{13}C -labeled acids

B) Polyketide origin

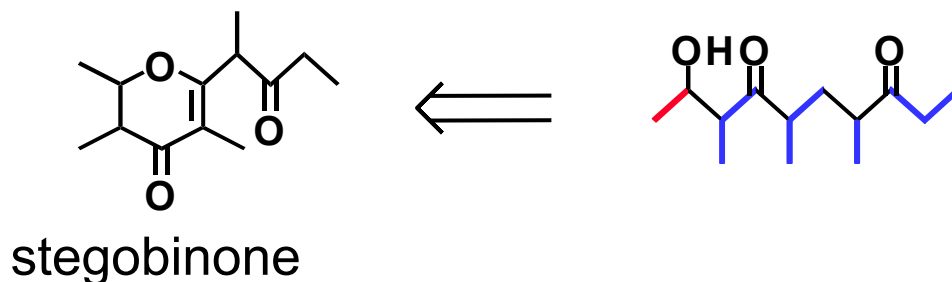
a) Sap beetle (*Carpophilus davidsoni*)



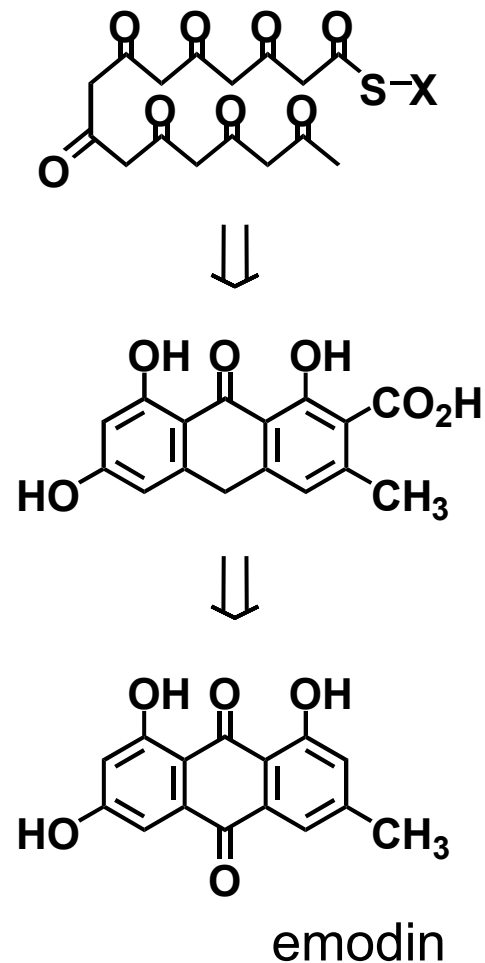
b) Cigarette beetle (*Lasioderma serricorne*)



c) Drugstore beetle (*Stegobium paniceum*)

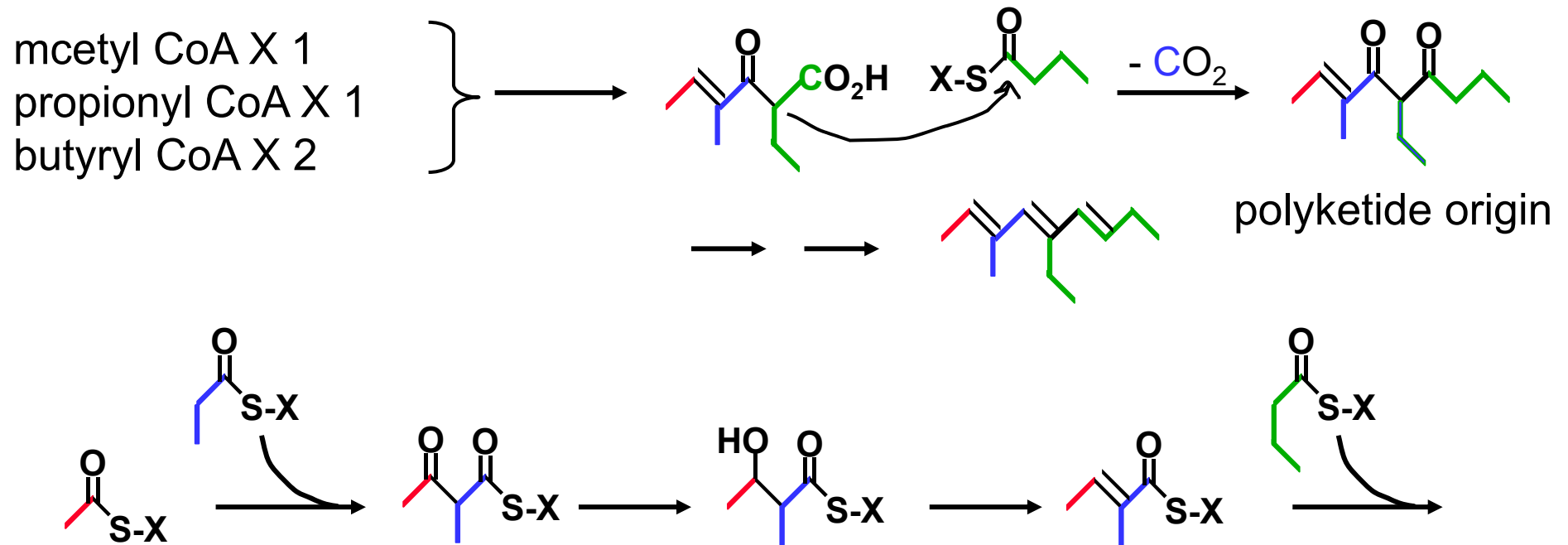


Quinone produced
by a plant



d) Sap beetle (*Carpophilus davidsoni*)

Petroski et al., 1994. *IBMB*, **24**: 69



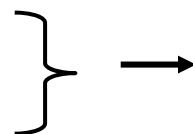
C) Incorporation of a amino acid

Gypsy moth (*Lymantria disper*)

Jurenka et al., 2003. *PNAS*, **100**: 809

valine

isobutyryl CoA X 1
malonyl CoA X 8



Me18-19:CoA



epoxidation



Me2,epo7-18:H



Other *Lymantria* species

Me2,epo7,17-18:H

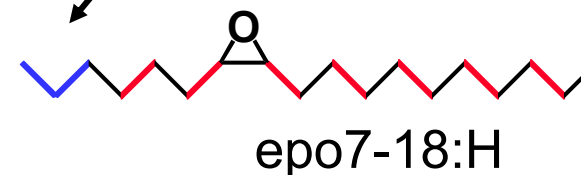


Me2,epo7-20:H



propyl CoA

?



D) Biosynthesis of methyl-branched 2-ketones

a) Typical known pheromones

Blattodea



Blattella germanica
(German cockroach)



Me₃,Me₁₁-29:2-one

Nishida *et al.*, 1974. *Experientia*, **30**: 978

Lepidoptera



Lyclene dharma
dharma
(Lithosiinae moth)

Me₆-18:2-one

Me₁₄-18:2-one

Me₆,Me₁₄-18:2-one

Yamamoto *et al.*, 2007. *BBB*, **71**: 2860

Coleoptera



Diabrotica balteata
(banded cucumber beetle)



Me₆,Me₁₂₋₁₅:2-one

Chuman *et al.*, 1987. *JCE*, **13**: 1601

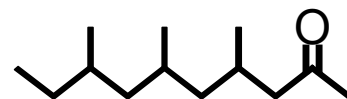
Diabrotica undecimpunctata
(spotted cucumber beetle)

Me₁₀₋₁₃:2-one

Guss *et al.*, 1983. *JCE*, **9**: 1363

Arachnida (Acari)

Chortoglyphus arcuatus
(storage mite)



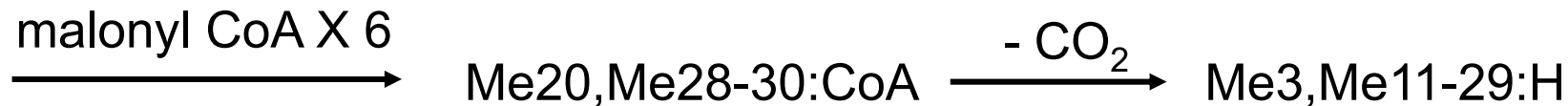
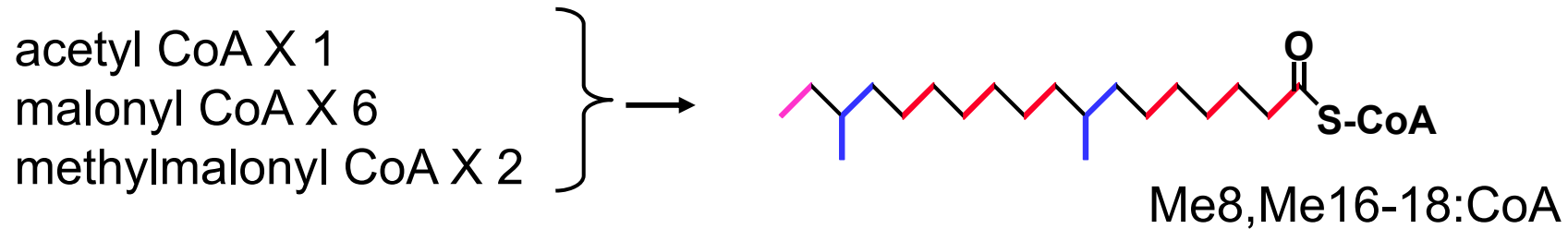
chortolure

Me₄,Me₆,Me₈₋₁₀:2-one

Schulz *et al.*, 2004. *Chembiochem*, **5**: 1500

b) German cockroach

Chase *et al.*, 1992. *PNAS*, **89**: 6050



Recognition of the 2-position
based on the 3-methyl group

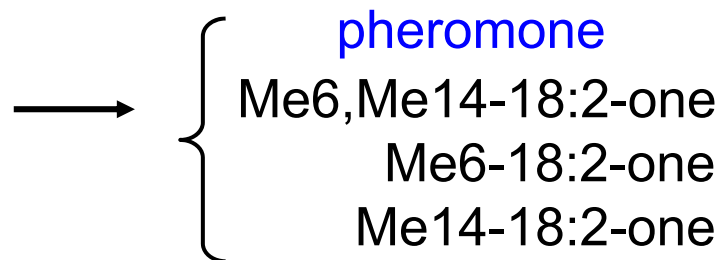
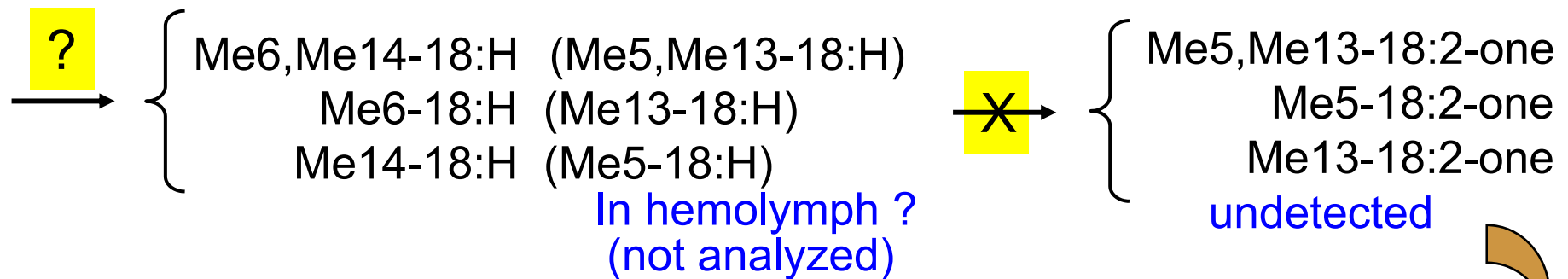
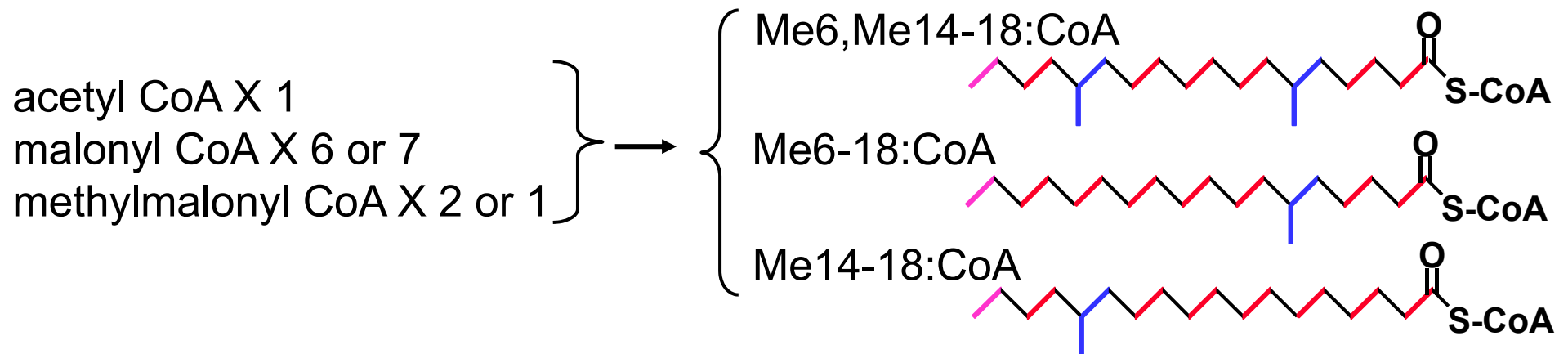


Branched hydrocarbons → 2-Ketones



General route ?

c) Lichen moth (speculation) ①

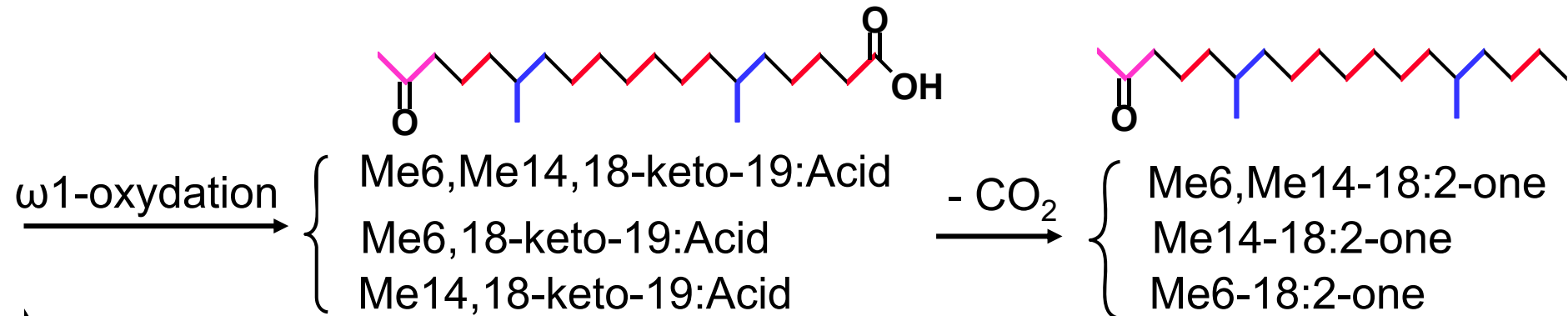
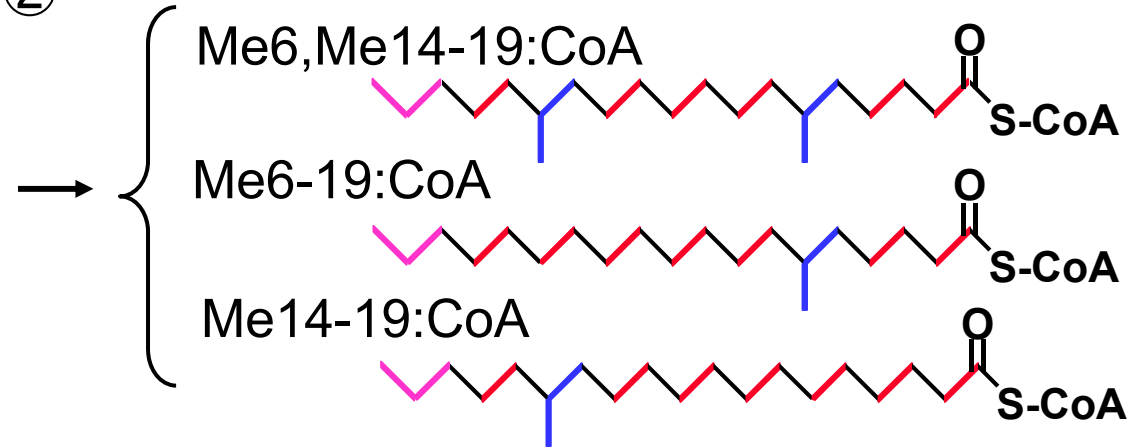


Not general route

Branched hydrocarbons → 2-Ketones

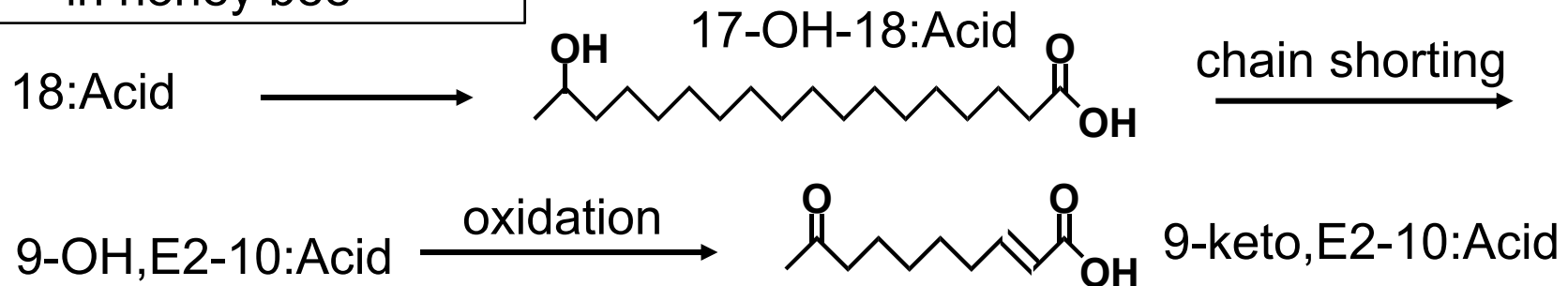
c) Lichen moth (speculation) ②

propyl CoA X 1
malonyl CoA X 6 or 7
methylmalonyl CoA X 2 or 1



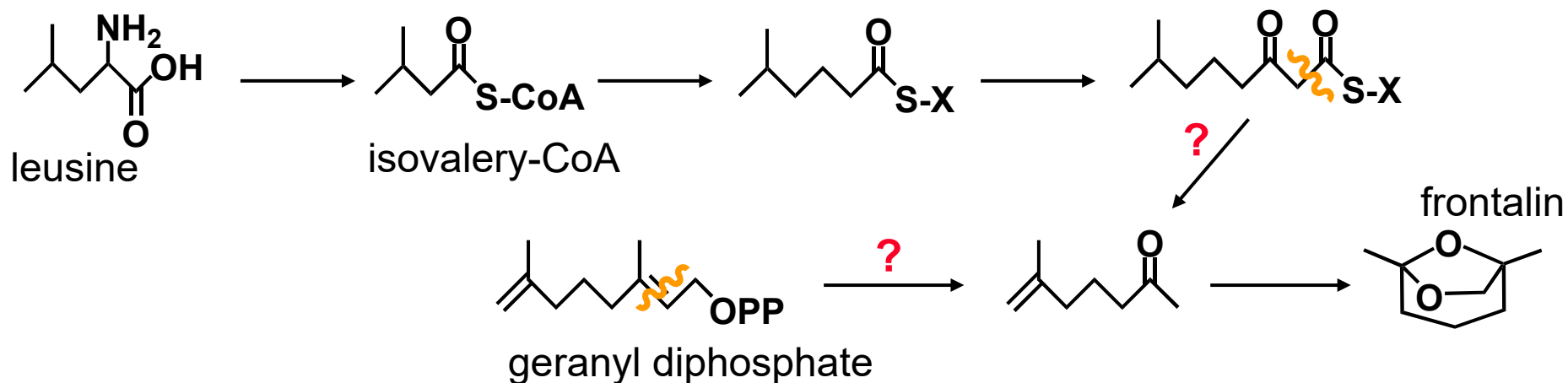
ω1-Oxydation of fatty acid
in honey bee

Plettner *et al.*, 1996. *Science*, **271**: 1851
1998. *IBMB*, **28**: 31



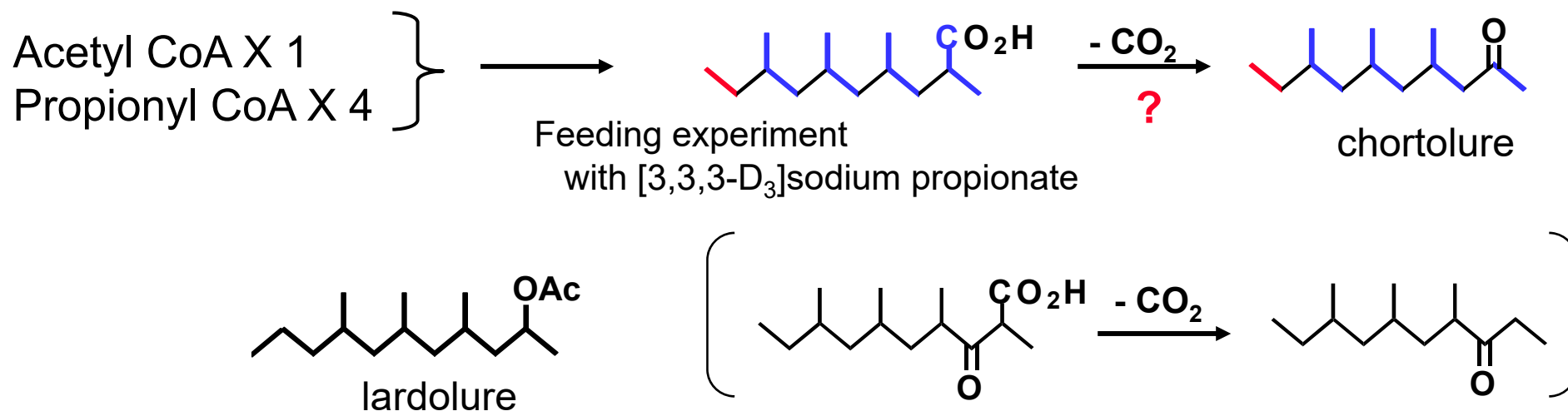
d) Bark beetle

Barkawi et al., 2003. *IBMB*, **33**: 1773



e) Storage mite

Schulz *et al.*, 2004. *Chembiochem*, **5**: 1500



f) Intermediate of homoteropene

Boland *et al.*, 1998. *Tetrahedron*, **54**: 14725

