# EFFECTS OF ELEVATED CARBON DIOXIDE AND TEMPERATURE ON INSECT-PLANT INTERACTIONS - A REVIEW

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#### ABSTRACT

The information on effects of elevated Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and temperature on insect-plant interactions has been compiled and reviewed. Substantial changes in phytochemistry of plants were mentioned by several workers under elevated CO<sub>2</sub> conditions. Decreased nitrogen (N), tremulacin, increased tannin, starch levels led to reduction in nutritional quality in array of plants exposed. To compensate these changes the consumption rate of larvae increased. Differential response was observed among various guilds of insects. In class Insecta, lepidopterans and homopterans were studied exclusively. Decreased relative growth rate, prolonged development time in lepidoptera (leaf chewers), increased abundance and fecundity in homoptera (sap suckers) were reported. The impact of elevated temperature was mentioned.

Human activities have increased the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and aerosols since the pre-industrial era. Global atmospheric CO, concentration has increased by approximately 30% since the industrial revolution and is believed to be responsible for an increase of ~0.6°C in mean annual global surface temperature (IPCC, 2001). If no climate policy interventions are made, the concentrations of atmospheric CO, may increase upto 405-460 ppm, 445-640 ppm and 540-970 ppm by 2025, 2050 and 2100 respectively. It is very likely that 20th century warming contributed significantly to the observed rise in global average sea level and increase in ocean-heat content. Snow covers and ice extent decreased (IPCC, 2001). Apart from the effects mentioned above, agriculture including plants-insect-parasitoid systems is likely to be affected by the climate change. This review summarizes the results from several years of research on the effects of elevated CO2 and temperature on plant chemistry and subsequent effects on the performance of insect herbivores.

Effect of elevated CO<sub>2</sub>
a) Phytochemistry of plants

Among the host plants, forest trees

and grasses have been extensively studied for insect-plant interactions under elevated  $CO_2$  (Table 1). Few studies are available on cultivated crops. In majority of studies the elevated  $CO_2$  concentrations ranged from 530 ppm to 1050 ppm.

Nitrogen concentration decreased in European white birch, Betula pendula (Kuokkanen et al., 2003), quaking aspen, Populus tremuloides (Holton et al., 2003), condensed tannins increased in european white birch trees (Kuokkanen et al., 2003), quaking aspen (Agrell et al., 2005), tremulacin levels increased in birch trees (Kopper and Lindroth, 2003) and starch concentration increased in paper birch, Betula papyrifera (Roth and Lindroth, 1995) and pine tree, Pinus taeda (Williams et al., 1997).

As in case of forest trees nitrogen decreased in many of the grasses except annual blue grass in which there was no effect on nitrogen concentration (Bezemer et al., 1998). In erect brome, Brumus erectus, vernal sedge, Carex caryophylla and Fescue, Festuca sps; increased CO<sub>2</sub> resulted in increase in nonstructural carbohydrates and condensed tannins (Goverde et al., 2002). C:N ratio increased in red fesue, Festuca rubra (Mevi-

Table 1. Impact of elevated CO, on insect-plant interactions

Common name Lepidoptera Gypsy moth			The second second second second		1			
Lepidoptera Gypsy moth	Scientific name		Common name	Scientific name	(mdd)			
-	Lymantria dispar	Lymantridae	Sessile Oak	Quercus petraea	530	42% increase in starch, decrease in N, increase in condensed lannins	Relative Growth Rate (RGR) reduced by 30%	Hattenschwiker and Schafeliner, 2004
Gypsy moth	Lymantria dispar Lymantria dispar	Lymantridae	Red maple White oak	Acer rubrum Quercus alba	Ambient + 300 Ambient + 300	Decreased N and C:N ratio Decreased N, Higher total non structural carbohydrate: N ratio	Reduced larval growth Significant growth reduction of early instar larvae	Williams et al., 2000 Williams et al., 1998
Gypsy moth	Lymantria dispar	Lymantridae	Gray birch	Betula populifolia	200	Decrease in N. Increase in condensed tannins	38% smaller pupal mass Declined in relative	Traw et al., 1996
Forest tent caterpillar	Malacosoma distria Lasiocampidae Qualding aspen	Lasiocampidae	Qualding aspen	Populus tremuloides	260	Decreased N, Increased tremulacin levels	No effect on larval	Kopper and Lindroth, 2003
Forest tent caterpillar	Malacosoma distria Lasiocampidae Qualding aspen	Lasiocampidae	Qualding aspen	Populus tremuloides	642 ± 2	Decreased N, increased starch.	Fast development time, 20% lowered growth rate	Lindroth et al., 1993
Small heath	Coenonympha	Satyridae	Red fescue	Festuca nubra	750	Decreased N. Increased C:N Ratio	Larval growth slower	Mevi-Schutz et al., 2003
Small heath	Coenonympha	Satyridae	Grasses	Brumus erectus	009	Decreased N. Increased non structural carbohydrates and condensed tamine	Increased lipid concentration in adults, Higher no: of eggs	Goverde et al., 2002
Common blue butterfly	Polyommatus Icarus Lycaenidae	Lycaenidae	Birdsfoot trefoil	Lotus corniculatus	009	Decreased N, Increased C:N	Marginal negative effect on	Goverde et al., 2004
Common blue butterfly	Polyommatus Icarus Lycaenidae	Lycaenidae	Birdyfoot trefoil	Lotus comiculatus	200	Increased carbon based	Greater pupal weight,	Bazin et al., 2002
Tobacco caterpillar	Spodoptera Iltura	Noctuidae	Mung bean	Vigna radiata	600 ± 50	Decreased N. Increased starch	Increased feeding and	Srivastava et al., 2002
Beet armyworm	Spodoptera exigua	Noctuidae	Upkind cotton	Gossypium	006	Decreased N. Increased	25% increase in consumption	Covietla and Trumble, 2000
Beet armyworm	Spodoptera exigua Noctuidae	Noctuidae	Consmon beet	Beta wigaris	700	Increased starch, soluble carbohydrate content	Greater larval survival	Caulfield and Bunce 1994
Thysanoptera Western Flower Thrips	Franklinkella occidentalis	Thripidae	Consmon	Asclepias syriaca	200	Decreased N, Increased C:N Ratio, Higher above ground biomess	Density decreased, consumption increased and leaf area damaged increased by 33%	Hughes and Bazzaz, 1997
Coloeptera Green Leaf Weevil	Phylloblus maculicornis	Curculionidae	European white birch	Betula pendula	200	Decreased N, flavonyl glycoskdes increased total phenoilics, condensed tannins, (+)-catechin and chinamoral puring additional puring additional puring additional puring a period of the contraction and period a	Weevis preferred leaves grown under elevated co <sub>2</sub> given a choice between treatments	Kuokkanen et al., 2003
Willow beetle	Phratora utellinae	Chrysometidae Dark leaved	Dark leaved willow	Saltx myrsinifolia	200	Increase in stem, kell total aerial bomass and specific leaf weight, decreased N and phenolics	Reduced relative growth rate of larvae, increased consumption	Vereil et al., 2002 (Contd.

## AGRICULTURAL REVIEWS

Insect	t	Family	Host plant	plant	CO2 conc.	Effect on host plants	Impact on insects	Reference
Common name	Scientific name	16.	Common name	Scientific name	(mdd)			
Hymenoptera Red-headed pine sawfly Neodiprion lecontel Diprionidae	Neodiprion lecontei	Diprionidae	Loblolly pine	Pinus taeda	Amblent + 300	Decreased N. Increased starch. Decreased monoterpenes.	Overall larval growth higher, consumption lower	Williams et al., 1997
Red-headed pine sawfly Neodlprion lecontel Diprionidae	Neodiprion lecontel	Diprionidae	Lobiolly pine	Pinus taeda	059	High starch: N ratios Decreased N, Increased starch. High starch: N ratios	Increased consumption, increase in Nutilization efficiency	Williams et al., 1994
Homoptera Cotton aphid	Aphis gossypil	Aphididae	Brooton	Gossyptum	1050	Increased C:N Ratio, Plant height, birmass and leaf area	Aphid fecundity significantly increased	Chen et al., 2005
Grain aphid	Stobion avenae	Aphididae	Spring wheat	Triticum aestivum	750	were higher Higher ear starch, sucrose, glucose, total nonstructural carbohydrates, free arrino- acids and solvible protein.	Local populations increased, Alate aphids on sticky traps decreased, alate forms denosited more anhids	Chen et al., 2004
Spittle bug	Neophibenus lineatus	Cercopidae	Heath rush	Juncus squarrosus	009	Decreased N Increased C:N Ratio. Reduced transpiration rates	on plants 20% reduction in nymph survival, delayed development	Brooks and Whittaker. 1999
Diptera Crane fly	Tipula abdominalis	Tipulidae	Quaking aspen	Populus tremuloides	720	Decreased N. Higher levels of structural compounds	Decrease consumption and assimilation. Growth 15	Tuchman et al., 2002
Chrysanthemum leafminer	Ohromatomyka syngeneslae	Agromyzidae	Common sowthistle	Sonchus oleraceus	Ambient + 200	High C:N ratio, thicker leaves	times slower Slow development, low pupal weight	Smith and Jones, 1998

schutz et al., 2003).

As in case of forest trees and grasses a nitrogen concentration decreased in cultivated plants like cotton, Gossypium hirsutum (Coviella and Trumble, 2000), mungbean, Vigna radiata (Srivastava et al., 2002), spring wheat, Triticum aestivum (Chen et al., 2004) and birdsfoot trefoil (Goverde et al., 2004). C:N ratio increased in cotton (Chen et al., 2005) and birdsfoot trefoil (Goverde et al., 2004). Starch concentration increased in mungbean (Srivastava et al., 2002), wheat (Chen et al., 2004) and common beet, Beta vulgaris (Caulfield and Bunce, 1994). There was an increase in sugars in mungbean (Srivastava et al., 2002) wheat (Chen et al., 2004) and birdsfoot trefoil (Goverde et al., 2004).

b) Effect on insects Through host-plant

The impact of elevated carbon dioxide on host plants and insects is comprehensively reviewed and presented in Table 1. Among the orders of class insecta, Lepidoptera was mainly studied with gypsy moth Lymantria dispar and forest tent caterpillar, Malacosoma distrria were studied exclusively.

i) Lepidoptera

Elevated CO2 had negative effect on larval performance of gypsy moth, which was studied extensively on an array of trees. Relative growth rate (RGR) declined by 30% on sessile oak, Quercus petraea and increased by 29 % on hornbeem, Carpinus betulus (Hattenschwiler and Schafellner, 2004). Decline in RGR was more on yellow birch, Betula allegheniens compared to gray birch, Betula populifolia. The pupal mass declined by 38 % gray birch while there was no effect on pupal mass on yellow birch. The differential response was attributed to greater decline in nutritional quality of yellow birch than gray birch (Traw et al., 1996). The studies conducted with forest tent caterpillar, M. disstria indicate that

larval feeding varies with host plant. Faster development time and 20% decrease in growth rate was observed on quaking aspen (Lindroth et al., 1993). No effect on the performance of the larvae was noticed on white oak, Quercus alba (Williams et al., 1998). Slower larval growth (Mevi-Schutz et al., 2003), increased lipid concentration and higher number of ovaries (Goverde et al., 2002) were observed in small heath, Coenonympha pamphilus feeding on grasses. Increased consumption by common blue butterfly, Polymmatus icarus larvae (Goverde et al., 1999), shorter development time and increased pupal weight (Bazin et al., 2002) were noticed when feeding on birdsfoot trefoil, Lotus corniculatus. Increased consumption by Spodoptera sps was observed on mungbean, Vigna radiata (Srivastava et al., 2002) and upland cotton, Gossypium hirsutum (Coviella and Trumble, 2000). Greater larval survival on common beet, Beta vulgaris (Caulfield and Bunce, 1994) and longer development time was noticed on upland cotton (Coviella and Trumble, 2000) (Table 1).

ii) Homoptera

The family aphididae in this order was widely studied, and mixed response of aphids was reported under elevated CO2. As is evident from Table 1 Cotton aphid, Aphis gossypii fecundity significantly increased on cotton (Chen et al., 2005). Local populations of grain aphid, Sitobion avenae on spring wheat, Triticum avenae (Chen et al., 2004) and green peach aphid, Myzus persicae on annual blue grass, Poa annua increased under elevated CO2 (Bezemer et al., 1998). Myzus persicae population on bittersweet (Solanum dulcamara) increased by 120% (Hughes and Bazzaz, 2001). Spittle bug (Neophilaenus lineatus) nymphal population was reduced by 20% and delayed development when they were fed with elevated CO, grown heath rush (Juncus squarrosus) (Brooks and Whittaker, 1999). Among five aphid-plant interactions tested by

of elevated CO2 on three aphid-host plant interactions. Aphis nerii on common milkweed (Asclepias syriaca), Aphis oenotherae on common evening primose (Oenothera biennis) and Aulacorthum solani on white shooting star (Nicotiana sylvestris).

### iii) Other Orders

Red headed pine sawfly (Neodiprion leconteil belonging to order hymenoptera when reared on elevated CO, grown loblolly pine (Pinus taeda) showed increased consumption, increased N utilization efficiency and overall larval growth (Williams et al., 1994; Williams et al., 1997). Decreased consumption and assimilation, 15 times slower growth of cranefly (Tipula abdominalis) belonging to order diptera on elevated CO2 grown quaking aspen was observed (Tuchman et al., 2002). Chrysanthemum leafminer (Chromatomyia syngenesiae) grown on common sowthistle (Sonchus oleraceus) developed slowly and had low pupal weight (Smith and Jones, 1998). In order Thysanoptera, thrips (Frankliniella occidentalis) density decreased, consumption increased and leaf area damage increased by 33% on elevated CO2 grown common milkweed (Hughes and Bazzaz, 1997) as shown in Table 1.

### Direct effects

Insects have been shown to respond directly to carbon dioxide concentrations. Wireworm larvae can locate a food source from distances of up to 20 cm and respond to a CO<sub>2</sub> concentration increase as small as 0.002% (Doane et al., 1975). The ability to locate host plants of some herbivores may be affected. Fluctuations in CO<sub>2</sub> density as small as 0.14% or 0.5 ppm were detected by the labial palps of Helicoverpa armigera (Stange, 1992). Other insects are able to locate their plant hosts following the plume of slightly higher CO2 concentrations, as does the moth Cactoblastis cactorum (Bergoth) with its host plant Opuntia

Hughes and Bazzaz (2001) there was no effect stricta (Stange 1992; Stange et al., 1995). Diabrotica virgifera virgifera (Le Conte) uses CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in soil to locate corn roots (Strnad et al., 1986; Bernklau & Bjostad 1998).

## Effect of elevated temperature a) Plants

The consequence of rising atmospheric carbon dioxide would be an increase in ambient temperature as pointed by Arrhenius (in Thompson, 1989). But they are usually treated separately because of experimental difficulties of varying both independently (Whittaker, 1999). The effect of temperature on different host plants is reviewed here under.

Differential response was noticed due to elevation of temperature in different species. Temperature caused a decrease in foliar nitrogen in Q. robur (Dury et al., 1998; Buse et al., 1998), increased in Cardamine hirsuta, Poa annua, Senecio vulgaris and Spergula arvensis (Bezemer et al., 1998) and had no effect on red maple, A. rubrum and sugar maple, A. saccharum (Williams et al., 2000). The concentrations of Cinnamoylquinic acids decreased and Salidroside decreased in white birch, Betula pendula leaves under elevated temperature conditions (Kuokkanen et al., 2003). Leaf water content of sugar maple leaves declined (Williams et al., 2000) and condensed tannin content increased in Q. robur (Dury et al., 1998).

## b) Herbivorous insects

Temperature is identified as dominant abiotic factor directly affecting herbivorous insects. Temperature directly affects the development, survival and abundance of insects. The influence of elevated temperature on various insect species is presented below.

There was no effect of elevated temperature except early pupation on larvae of winter moth, Operophtera brumata feeding on oak leaves, Q. robur (Buse et al., 1998). Larval development and adult fecundity of O. brumata was adversely affected by increased temperatures on Q. robur (Dury et al., 1998). The long-term exposure to a 3.5°C increase in temperature shortened insect development but had no effect on pupal weight. (Williams et al., 2003). Development time of the beetles Octotoma championi and Octotoma scabripennis feeding on Lantana camara was accelerated by approximately 10-13 days at the higher temperature. There was substantial mortality of the larvae under high temperature/ambient CO2 treatment due to premature leaf loss by L. camara (Johns et al., 2003). The temperature enhancement increased the relative growth rate (RGR) of the larvae of chrysomelid beetle, Phratora vitellinae feeding on S. myrsinifolia. (Veteli et al., 2002).

# DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The impact of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> on the phytochemistry of the plants was well documented. The results indicated that most of the studies have been concentrated on the array of plant species. In elevated CO<sub>2</sub> conditions across types of plants viz., forest trees, grasses and cultivated plants the change in phytochemistry of plants was significant. In majority of cases decrease in nitrogen, increase in condensed tannins, tremulacin levels, starch, drymatter production and root shoot ratio was observed. These changes in phytochemistry of plants lead to deterioration of nutritional quality of plants.

The majority of the insects studied have been lepidopterans, which are represented by only nine families. Of these, the economically important Noctuidae have received the most attention. Most other orders are represented by only one or two species, nearly all of which are economically important agricultural pests. Remarkably, only three species in two families have been examined in the largest insect order, the Coleoptera, and Diptera is represented by just two species in

two families. The above review information on effect of elevated CO, on insect pests revealed that the performance of the same insect varied from host to host indicating host species specificity. The effect of elevated CO, was significant across various species of lepidopterans. The response of insects varied differently and was not consistent across host plants (eg. The effects of elevated CO2 on gypsy moth) while the response of different insects feeding on same host was different (eq. Differential response of insects feeding on Birch tree). The information on the response of aphids towards elevated CO, was of mixed type. All types of response (increase, decrease and no effect) on the population size of the aphids was observed due to elevated CO,

The analyzed data on impact of elevated CO, on insect pests indicated that the general decreases in foliar nitrogen concentration and increases in carbohydrate and phenolic-based secondary metabolites reported in many individual studies. The consumption by herbivores was related primarily to changes in nitrogen and carbohydrate levels. No differences were found between CO,-mediated herbivore responses on woody and herbaceous plant species. Leafchewing insects generally increased their consumption of foliage under elevated CO2 to compensate for reduced nutritional quality and suffered no adverse effects upon the pupal weights. The leaf-mining insects could only partially compensate by increased consumption and their pupal weights did decline. The phloem-feeding and whole-cell-feeding insects responded positively to elevated CO2, with increases in population size and decreases in development time.

In most of the studies on impact of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> on insect-plant interactions the insects in ambient conditions were fed with detached leaves of host plants grown under elevated CO<sub>2</sub>. However, there are a few studies

in which both insects and host plants were exposed to elevated  $CO_2$  but these studies couldn't pinpoint the direct effects of elevated  $CO_2$  on insects. Hence there is a need to further examine how insects get affected when exposed directly to elevated  $CO_2$  decline in pupal weight. Sap feeders (11 species) are the only functional group to show positive responses to elevated  $CO_2$ . (Bezemer and Jones, 1998). Geographic distribution of insects will be affected by shifts in host-plant ranges. Scenarios like local extinctions, changes in endangered species at the conditions.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the present and earlier reviews (Watt et al., 1995; Bezemer and Jones, 1998; Coviella and Trumble, 1999; Whittaker, 1999; Hunter, 2001). Herbivores respond to increased levels of CO<sub>2</sub> by increasing their food consumption, prolonging development time, and reducing their growth rates and food conversion efficiency (Watt et al., 1995). Changes in the performance of herbivorous insects, usually in the larval stages are correlated with changes in the quality of the food plants such as nitrogen level, C:N ratio, concentration of phenolics. In general, host plant quality declines in elevated CO2 with leaf nitrogen decreasing and phenolics increasing. Changes in nitrogen content are correlated with changes in food consumption and changes in phenolics with changes in food digestibility. Leaf chewers (14 species) are generally able to compensate for quality of food by increased food consumption (30%) without adverse effects on pupal weight. Leaf miners (4 species) also increase food consumption but insufficiently to prevent a

species) are the only functional group to show positive responses to elevated CO2. (Bezemer and Jones, 1998). Geographic distribution of insects will be affected by shifts in host-plant ranges. Scenarios like local extinctions, changes in endangered species status and altered pest status can be predicted (Coviella and Trumble, 1999). Plants and insects exposed to modified environmental conditions may lead to considerable advances in understanding the mechanisms of responses by both insects and plants, they do not necessarily predict the outcome of such interactions in real ecological changes in the open field, where expected change in plantinsect interactions may be buffered by many unknown interactions and other factors (Whittaker, 1999 and 2001).

It was observed that majority of insectplant interactions are from forest trees and
grasses. Few studies are available on cultivated
plants. There are no studies on important global
pest like Helicoverpa armigera, which is
ubiquitous pest of international importance. As
mentioned by Coviella and Trumble (1999)
many insect orders have been completely
neglected, the situation till date has not changed
with majority of our studies are from order
Lepidoptera followed by Homoptera.

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