date-treated tubes, significantly fewer (P < .05, Wilcoxon test) than the 42.0 ± 17.6 ants visiting the empty tubes.

Gas chromatography of whole body extracts revealed a single major volatile component in B. yuccae (7). Its mass spectrum contained a minor parent ion at a mass-to-charge ratio of 170, important ions at 152, 141, and 128, and a base peak at 85, identical to the published spectrum for γ-decalactone (8). An authentic sample of this lactone (9) had an identical retention time and mass spectrum and also had a fruity odor similar to that of the exudate from the thrips. The compound was easily identified in extracts of the anal exudate and was concentrated in the hindgut (10). Adults contained approximately twice as much lactone as larvae [0.27 ± 0.15 (S.D.) versus 0.12 ± 0.10 μg, respectively (11)]. The lactone could not be detected in leaves of the host plant (12).

The repellency of γ-decalactone was determined with predatory ants in both the laboratory and field. Glass tubes were prepared as before and treated with ethanol solutions of the synthetic compound or with ethanol alone (control) (13). In tests on laboratory colonies of M. minimum, the number of workers entering the tubes decreased as the concentration of lactone increased, approximately two thrips equivalents evoking 50 percent repellency (13). Similar results were obtained in laboratory tests with two other predatory ant species, M. pharaonis and Iridomyrmex humilis. In the field, a modified test on foraging M. minimum workers corroborated our laboratory findings (14). A mean ± S.D. of 1.3 ± 1.5 workers entered tubes streaked with ten thrips equivalents of γ-decalactone, while 13.0 ± 4.4 ants visited the control tubes (P < .05, Wilcoxon test). In further evidence of the offensive nature of the chemical, ants feeding at the mouth of control tubes often directed their antennae toward their food but those feeding at treated tubes deflected their antennae (Fig. 1D).

These results indicate that the defensive ability of B. yuccae depends on protective habitat, defensive behavior, and chemical assault. Among aggregative species of thrips, communal living may provide the advantage of a shared pool of defensive resources.

γ-Decalactone has been isolated from a yeast and from dairy products and is a constituent of the aroma of several fruits, including peaches and strawberries (15). There are no published ac-

counts of its occurrence in animals (16), but our inability to detect the compound in the leaves of Yucca filamentosa indicates that it is not of dietary origin.

DENNIS F. HOWARD
MURRAY S. BLUM
Department of Entomology,
University of Georgia,
Athens 30602

HENRY M. FALES
Laboratory of Chemistry,
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Bethesda, Maryland 20205

References and Notes
1. "Thrips" is used in both singular and plural contexts.
4. Glass bridges permitted ants from laboratory colonies to reach the thrips.
5. Of 40 encounters, 26 ended when an adult thrips raised its abdomen before or during the ant fluid (or both), and 14 ended when an adult escaped by walking away or remained motionless until the inspecting ant departed; larvae encountered were not counted.
6. A 5-mm cotton plug was placed in one end of a tube (length, 3.75 cm; inner diameter, 0.5 cm). Twenty-five adult thrips were gently held (with watchmaker forceps) against the tube's interior as they exuded fluid. Six tubes were prepared in this way. One tube containing exudate and one empty tube were placed in the foraging arena of each of six ant colonies. Ants inside each tube were counted at 1, 5, 10, and 15 minutes.
7. Methylene chloride extracts were analyzed by gas chromatography (LKB 2091 instrument); the column (2.0 m by 2.0 mm) was packed with 1 percent SP-1000 and was programmed to increase in temperature from 50° to 250°C at 8°C per minute.
9. Gas chromatography indicated that γ-decalactone constituted more than 99 percent of the volatile substances in a synthetic standard (Aldrich). The possibility of the thrips' volatile material was not determined.
10. Extracts were collected with a fine capillary tube and transferred into a vial of CHCl₃. The gut was removed from ten thrips (anesthetized under cold Ringer solution), and methylene chloride extracts were prepared from hindgut, midgut, and Malpighian tubule fractions. Gas chromatography showed the lactone in abundance only in the hindgut and midgut.
11. Fifteen larvae and adults were individually crushed in a V-shaped vial and their lactone content quantified by using gas chromatography to compare CHCl₃ extracts to standards. The lactone content of adults was 0.5 μg/mg and of larvae was 3.1 ± 0.4 μg/mg (weight units).
12. Yucca filamentosa leaves were steam-distilled into ethyl acetate, extracted with methylene chloride, and analyzed by gas chromatography.
13. Portions (5 μl) containing 0.25, 1.0, 2.5, 10, or 25 thrips equivalents were applied to CHCl₃ (1 TE = 0.27 μg) were applied with a microsyringe. Tubes were allowed to dry 3 minutes before presentation to five colonies of M. minimum. The order of presentation of the concentrations was randomized, each colony being tested for each concentration twice (N = 10 tubes per concentration). Ants were monitored as before. Scores, expressed as percent of control colonies, were 0.25 TE 16 percent; 1 TE, 69 percent; 2.5 TE, 16 percent; 10 TE, 5 percent; and 25 TE, 2 percent.
14. Monomorium minimum foragers were reluctant to enter tubes in the field. Therefore, an end plug of honey was the cotton with a streak of the food drawn along the interior of the tube to entice workers. Tubes containing exudate and control tubes were placed along recruitment trails of six colonies; the number of workers inside the tubes was counted after 15 minutes.
16. γ-Decalactone has been identified in the defensive secretion of beetles (J. W. Wheeler, G. Harper, J. Arasjo, J. Pastel, Tetraedron Lett. 36, 4635 (1972)).
17. We thank R. Beshar for identifying the thrips, M. Tomalski for assistance in dissection, D. Whitman and D. Fletcher for critical reviews of the manuscript, and M. Kramer and G. Chappell for providing plants.
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Retraction of Data on the Human c-ras¹H Oncogene

We published a paper entitled, "The human c-ras¹H oncogene: A mutation in normal and neoplastic tissue from the same patient" on 18 February 1983 (1), in which we claimed to have identified, by means of the Southern blotting technique, a tumor as well as normal tissue with the c-ras¹H oncogene mutation. In pursuit of these studies, we developed two independent lymphocyte cell lines from this patient. They were prepared by transformation with Epstein-Barr virus. These cell lines, which proved to be karyotypically normal, did not contain the mutant allele. At this point, we reevaluated our original findings and again extracted DNA from a portion of the tumor which had been frozen to repeat the analysis. The DNA from the second extraction of the tumor does not contain the c-ras¹H oncogene mutation. We now believe that the original extractions of DNA from this patient, which were performed simultaneously, were contaminated by a plasmid DNA containing the c-ras¹H oncogene and that this contamination led to spurious results.

RUTH J. MUSCHEL
GEORGE KHOURY
Laboratory of Molecular Virology,
National Cancer Institute,
Bethesda, Maryland 20205

PAUL LEBOWITZ
Department of Medicine,
Yale University Medical School,
New Haven, Connecticut 06510

RICHARD KOLLER
RAVI DHAR
Laboratory of Molecular Virology

References and Notes
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RJ Muschel, G Khoury, P Lebowitz, R Koller and R Dhar

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