

1 Lipid Metabolism in Parasitoids and their
2 Parasitized Hosts

3
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14 **Abstract**

15 Parasitoids have an exceptional lifestyle where development is spent on or in a single host insect,
16 but the adults are free-living. Unlike parasites, parasitoids always kill their host. How parasitoids
17 use such a limiting resource, particularly lipids, is important for their chances to survive and
18 reproduce. Lipid metabolism in parasitoids has been of interest to researchers already since the 60s
19 and continues to fascinate ecologists, evolutionists, physiologists, and entomologists alike. One
20 reason is that the majority of parasitoids do not accumulate triacylglycerols as adults. Early
21 research revealed that some parasitoid larvae mimic the fatty acid composition of their host, which
22 may result from a lack of *de novo* triacylglycerol synthesis. More recent work has focused on the
23 evolution of lack of adult triacylglycerol accumulation and consequences for life history traits. In
24 part 2 of this chapter we discuss research efforts on lipid metabolism in parasitoids from the 60s
25 onwards. Parasitoids are master manipulators of their host's physiology, including lipid
26 metabolism. Parasitoids have indeed evolved a range of mechanisms to affect the release,
27 synthesis, transport, and take-up of lipids from their host. We detail the effects of parasitism on
28 host physiology in part 3 of this chapter.

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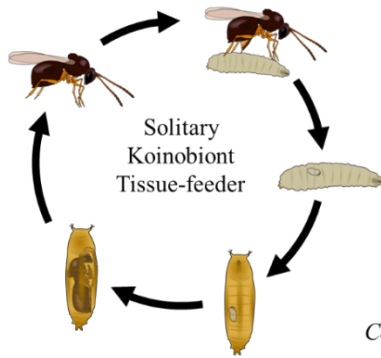
30 **Keywords:** Fat; Fitness; Host-parasitoid interaction; Parasitic wasp

31 **1 Introduction**

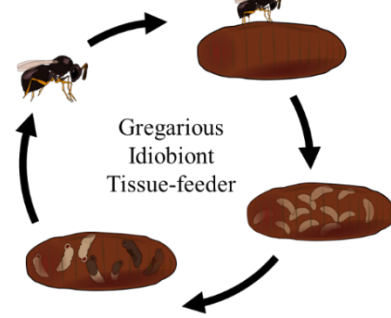
32 There are many intricacies when it comes to the fat metabolism of parasitoids. These insects have
33 a unique lifestyle, where development takes place inside or on a single host (usually another insect
34 or arthropod), but the adults are free-living (Godfray, 1994) (Fig. 1). During development, the
35 parasitoid consumes the host and its nutritional resources, sometimes only partly or in its entirety
36 in successive steps (Cuny and Poelman, 2022), ultimately leading to death of the host.
37 Parasitoidism thus constitutes a parasitic relationship between a parasitoid and its host that differs
38 from parasites in the extent to which the host is harmed (i.e., death), also in terms of fitness
39 (Lafferty & Kuris, 2002). The parasitoid lifestyle evolved repeatedly in insects, including
40 independent occurrences in beetles, flies, butterflies, and lacewings (Eggleton & Belshaw, 1992,
41 1993), but Hymenoptera (bees, ants, wasps, and sawflies) is the most speciose order when it comes
42 to parasitoids (and potentially species in general, see Forbes et al., 2018). The large breadth of
43 parasitoid species worldwide, their unique lifestyle, and the plethora of strategies used by
44 parasitoids to infect their hosts make them valuable and interesting biological model systems
45 (Hoddle et al., 1998; Liu et al., 2015; Matthews et al., 2009; Quicray et al., 2023; Werren &
46 Loehlin, 2009; Whitfield et al., 2017). This is true not only from a basic, fundamental scientific
47 perspective, but also for the applied sciences, because parasitoids play a key role in regulating both
48 natural and agricultural insect communities (i.e., as biocontrol agents against insect pests; Jervis,
49 2005).

50 This chapter starts with an overview of research done on lipid metabolism of insect
51 parasitoids, from earlier works in the 60s to the most recent developments in part 2. Host fatty acid
52 composition and fat content, as well as the ability of parasitoids to manipulate host lipids and their
53 availability, is of critical importance for both immature and adult parasitoids. Part 3 focuses on the
54 different mechanisms by which parasitoids can manipulate the fat metabolism of their hosts.

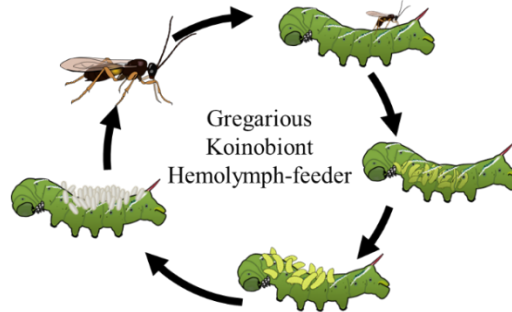
Leptopilina heterotoma - *Drosophila melanogaster*



Nasonia vitripennis - *Sarcophaga bullata*



Cotesia congregata - *Manduca sexta*



55
56 **Fig. 1.** The parasitoid life cycle showing the different effects on host development (idiobiont vs koinobiont),
57 as well as parasitoid oviposition (solitary vs gregarious) and feeding strategies (hemolymph vs tissue-
58 feeder). Represented species include the parasitoid *Leptopilina heterotoma* on the host *Drosophila*
59 *melanogaster*, the parasitoid *Cotesia congregata* on the host *Manduca sexta*, and the parasitoid *Nasonia*
60 *vitripennis* on the host *Sarcophaga bullata*.

61

62 **2 Fatty acid synthesis and fat accumulation in parasitoids**

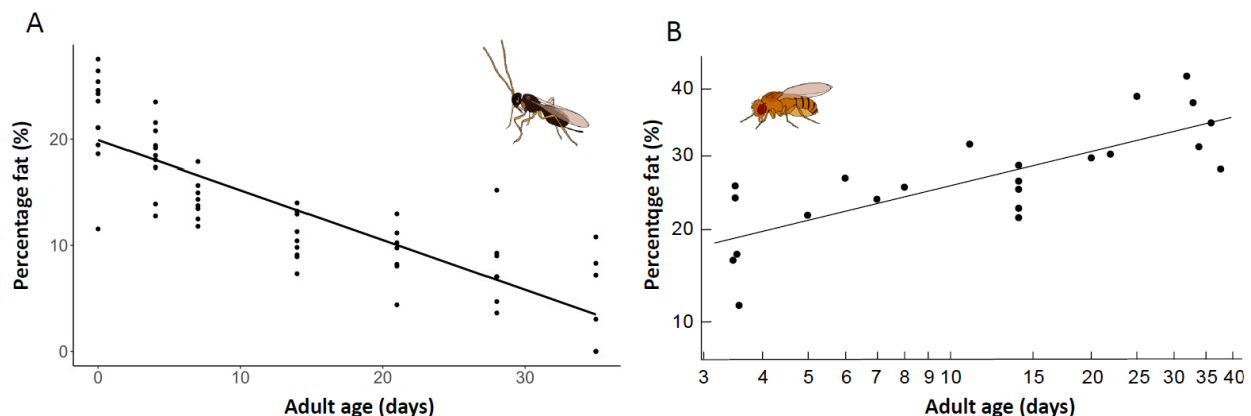
63 Parasitoids have been of particular interest to biologists with respect to their lipid metabolism.
64 There has, however, been some recent debate between researchers studying parasitoid lipid
65 metabolism, mainly in terms of semantics (Visser et al., 2023). To avoid confusion about
66 definitions and terminology related to lipid metabolism, we have proposed the use of stricter
67 definitions that emphasize the difference between the processes of fatty acid synthesis and
68 triacylglycerol/fat accumulation (Visser et al., 2023). This distinction is important, because these
69 two processes are not synonymous with one another: fatty acids can be synthesized even if
70 triacylglycerols are not accumulated. The main interest of evolutionary ecologists studying lipid
71 metabolism in parasitoids has been on the accumulation of triacylglycerols in adults, because
72 energy stored in the form of fat reserves can have a major impact on life histories and fitness (see
73 Box 1 for a brief overview of the link between fat content and life histories in parasitoids).
74 Parasitoids represent a curious case where triacylglycerols are generally not accumulated in
75 response to superfluous feeding, unlike other animals that will readily accumulate triacylglycerols
76 under the same nutritional conditions (Visser et al., 2010; Visser & Ellers, 2008; Box 1). While
77 previously referred to as the “lack of lipogenesis” or “lack of lipid synthesis”, we now refer to this
78 phenomenon as the “lack of adult triacylglycerol/fat accumulation” in parasitoids (Visser et al.,

79 2023), with fat being used synonymously with triacylglycerol. We continue part 2 of this chapter
80 with a chronological account of the work done on lipid metabolism, with a main focus on fatty acid
81 synthesis and fat accumulation in insect parasitoids.
82

83
84 **Box 1. Survival of the fattest: Stored triacylglycerol levels impact longevity, reproduction,
85 and other fitness-related traits in parasitoids**

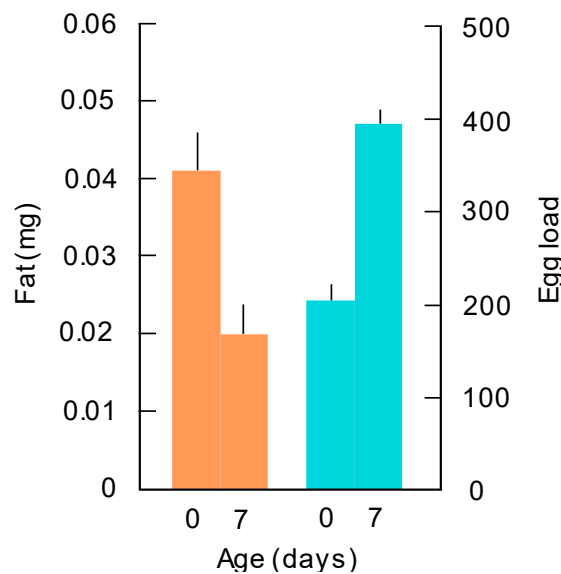
86 Triacylglycerols are the most comprehensive form in which energy can be stored, both in terms of
87 the storage space needed within a cell and the higher caloric content per unit of weight (Arrese &
88 Soulages, 2010). Oxidation of triacylglycerols further releases twice as much water compared to
89 glycogen (i.e., the other metabolite for energy storage). Taking all this into consideration, it is not
90 surprising that fat plays a critical role for insect life histories, including parasitoids (Jervis et al.,
91 2008). We use earlier work on the *Drosophila*-parasitizing braconid wasp *Asobara tabida* as an
92 exemplary case study to reveal the close link between fat reserves and life history traits (see Colinet
93 et al., 2006; Giron & Casas, 2003a; Le Lann et al., 2014; Luo et al., 2010; Muller et al., 2017;
94 Sheng et al., 2019 for similar findings in other parasitoid species).

95 Under laboratory conditions, *A. tabida* females can emerge with ~20% total body fat (Visser
96 et al., 2010), but triacylglycerol levels never exceed those at emergence (Ellers, 1996; Le Lann et
97 al., 2014; Visser et al., 2010), as depicted in Fig. B1A. Unlike most other insects (and animals) that
98 rapidly start building up triacylglycerol stores when fed a surplus of sugars (see Fig. B1B for
99 *Drosophila melanogaster* as an example; Visser et al., 2010), triacylglycerol content in *A. tabida*
100 decreases quickly during the first week of life, and more steadily at a rate of ~0.004 mg per week
101 thereafter (for comparison: when starved, *A. tabida* triacylglycerol-use is ~0.004 mg per day).
102 Moreover, *A. tabida* strains with higher fat content also live longer (Ellers, 1996). Fat reserves are
103 thus correlated with adult survival and used to fuel life.
104



105
106
107 **Fig. B1.** The proportion of fat (in %) in adult *A. tabida* (A), and *D. melanogaster* (B) throughout life. Based
108 on data from Ellers, 1996 and redrawn from Service, 1987.
109

110 A major part of the abdomen and fat body can be dedicated to storing fat. Triacylglycerol
 111 levels are indeed generally correlated with size in arthropods (Lease and Wolf, 2011), also in *A.*
 112 *tabida* (Ellers, 1996; Ellers et al., 1998). Larger, fatter females also have more eggs in the ovarioles
 113 (Ellers et al., 1998), and *A. tabida* females can emerge with ~160 yolk-poor (i.e., hydropic) eggs
 114 (Carton et al., 1986; Le Lann et al., 2014). Many more eggs can be produced during life (i.e.,
 115 synovigeny; Fig. B2; Jervis et al., 2001), however, with realized fecundity ranging between 580
 116 and 630 eggs when hosts are available in excess (Ellers and van Alphen, 1997). Similar to survival,
 117 allocation of fat reserves towards reproduction is highest during the first week of life. If the
 118 energetic cost of survival is similar between ovipositing and non-ovipositing females, then ~25ng
 119 fat is allocated into each egg during the first week of life. Once fat has been used for reproduction,
 120 these reserves cannot be used anymore for other functions (in contrast to some other parasitoid
 121 species that resorb eggs; Jervis et al., 2001). Limiting fat reserves can, therefore, lead to so-called
 122 trade-offs in life history traits, because energy can be invested either into reproduction or survival
 123 (Ellers, 1996) or early versus late reproduction (Seyahooei et al., 2020).
 124
 125



126
 127 **Fig. B2.** Amount of fat (mean +1se) and egg load (mean +1se) of *A. tabida* females originating from a
 128 population in Kos, Greece, at emergence and 7 days after emergence (with access to food). Redrawn from
 129 Ellers & van Alphen, 1997.

130
 131 Field experiments using a release-recapture approach revealed that dispersal of laboratory-
 132 reared *A. tabida* females is size-dependent (Ellers et al., 1998). Larger, fatter females can disperse
 133 over larger distances (>15 meters) compared to smaller females. Wild-caught *A. tabida* were
 134 generally smaller than laboratory-reared females, and size decreased as the season progressed
 135 (from July to September). Larger wild-caught females burned more fat than smaller females, and
 136 larger females carried more eggs at the time of capture. Another study examined the size of field-

137 caught females over several months (June to October) (Ellers et al., 2001). Female size varied, but
138 larger, fatter females were generally captured at the start and the end of the field season. This
139 pattern can be explained by the differences in temperature throughout the field season, with higher
140 temperatures being reached during summer leading to an increase in metabolic activity and lipid
141 oxidation. Alternatively, fat females have a selective advantage when entering and emerging from
142 diapause early and late in the season, as large fat stores are required to survive months at low
143 environmental temperatures (Ellers and van Alphen, 2002).

144
145 *2.1 Early studies on parasitoid larval fatty acid and triacylglycerol synthesis*
146 Parasitoid fatty acid metabolism started to receive some attention in the late 1960s. Several
147 researchers took an interest in hymenopteran parasitoids, because unlike other insects (e.g.,
148 dipterans and lepidoptans; Barlow, 1964, 1965, 1966), some wasps did not seem to have their own
149 characteristic fatty acid composition. Rather than a species-specific qualitative and quantitative
150 fatty acid composition, several wasp species seemed to duplicate the fatty acid composition
151 characteristic of their host. Bracken & Barlow (1967) were the first to investigate this intriguing
152 phenomenon in the ichneumonid parasitoid *Exeristes comstockii*. Using unparasitized larvae of the
153 dipteran host *Lucilia sericata*, the lepidopteran host *Galleria mellonella*, and the sawfly *Neodiprion*
154 *sertifer* (basal Hymenoptera), hosts that show substantial interspecific quantitative differences in
155 fatty acids, they showed that *E. comstockii* larvae readily duplicated the distinctive fatty acid
156 composition of each of its hosts. The host-specific fatty acid composition of *E. comstockii* remained
157 unchanged throughout pupation and into adulthood, meaning that the duplication phenomenon is
158 not stage-specific. Similar findings were obtained for another ichneumonid parasitoid, *Itopectis*
159 *conquisitor*, when reared on the lepidopteran hosts *G. mellonella* and *Ostrinia nubilalis* (Thompson
160 and Barlow, 1970), and in two parasitoid tachinid flies (Delobel and Pageaux, 1981).

161 To determine the generality of duplicated fatty acid compositions in parasitoids, Thompson
162 & Barlow (1972) tested several other parasitoid species at the larval stage, including aphidids and
163 braconids, as well as species from the superfamily Chalcidoidea, including pteromalids and
164 eulophids. All ichneumonids tested (n = 7) had similar fatty acid compositions as their hosts, but the
165 same was true for the pteromalid *Spalangia cameroni* and the eulophid *Dahlbominus fuscipennis*.
166 A subsequent study with 30 species revealed that while most ichneumonids had duplicated fatty
167 acid compositions, this was not a general pattern for this group and duplication occurred also in
168 species from other families (Thompson and Barlow, 1974). It was suggested that duplication of the
169 fatty acid composition may be related to host range of the parasitoid, because most (although not
170 all) species with duplicated compositions were generalists able to develop on a wide range of hosts.
171 It should be noted, however, that in most experiments by Thompson and collaborators
172 unparasitized hosts were compared to parasitoids. When fatty acid compositions differ between
173 hosts and parasitoids, these changes could also result from manipulation of the host's fat
174 metabolism by the parasitoid (see part 3 of this chapter). Furthermore, replication is rather low in
175 the early works of Thompson and colleagues; hence some caution is needed when interpreting their
176 results.

177 The question arises why some parasitoids duplicate the fatty acid composition of their hosts
178 and how they are doing that? One explanation is that the parasitoids readily take over the fat, and
179 thereby the fatty acid composition, of the host without contributing *de novo* synthesized fatty acids
180 themselves. Thompson & Barlow (1972b) tested this hypothesis using *E. comstockii* reared on the
181 lepidopteran host *G. mellonella* and the dipteran host *L. sericata*. By injecting radiolabeled acetate
182 (¹⁴C-1-acetate) into the hosts, and rearing the parasitoid on both host species, it became apparent
183 that *E. comstockii* larvae synthesized (as well as desaturated and elongated) fatty acids, with
184 palmitate (C16:0) being the main synthetic product. While *de novo* fatty acid synthesis is clearly
185 taking place, *E. comstockii* fatty acids also originate from direct incorporation of host fat. This was
186 demonstrated by the presence of eicosenoic acid (C20:1) that was synthesized *de novo* by *G.*
187 *mellonella* only and was also present in the fatty acid fraction of *E. comstockii* (but without
188 radioactivity and thus synthesis). Thompson & Barlow (1972b) suggested that although parasitoids
189 can synthesize fatty acids *de novo*, they may lack a mechanism to control fatty acid levels. Indeed,
190 typically an increase in dietary fatty acids reduces *de novo* fatty acid synthesis; hence a lipid-rich
191 dietary source, such as an insect host larva, should reduce rather than enhance fatty acid synthesis.
192 Lacking the ability to regulate fatty acid levels could thus contribute to the duplication of fatty acid
193 compositions observed in some parasitoid species.

194 If host fatty acid composition largely determines that of the parasitoid, what happens if the
195 host is taken out of the equation altogether? Thompson & Barlow (1976) did the test: they reared
196 larvae of another ichneumonid, *Exeristes roborator*, that also duplicates the fatty acid composition
197 of its host, on a fatty-acid free artificial medium. Without any host, the parasitoid larvae readily
198 synthesized fatty acids *de novo* with a composition that did not mimic that of any of its hosts.
199 Moreover, adding host-extracted fatty acids to the artificial medium in relative abundances similar
200 to the host's species-specific composition did not lead to duplication of the fatty acid composition.
201 It is thus not the fatty acids, or their composition, *per se* that influence the parasitoid's fatty acid
202 composition, yet the host itself has a major impact.

203 The developmental environment is strikingly different for parasitoids reared on an
204 artificially defined fatty acid free-medium compared to a natural, developing host insect that is rich
205 in lipids. Triacylglycerols indeed appeared to be less toxic for *E. roborator* to consume than fatty
206 acids (Thompson, 1977), which makes sense considering that developing hosts typically contain
207 substantial triacylglycerol quantities compared to free fatty acids. If host acylglycerols can be used
208 by the parasitoid with relative ease, perhaps there is no need to invest in energetically costly
209 triacylglycerol synthesis by the parasitoid itself. The study of Jones et al., (1982) compared
210 triacylglycerol synthesis between ichneumonid species that duplicated the host's fatty acid
211 composition, *E. roborator* and *I. conquisitor*, with species that have their own characteristic fatty
212 acid composition irrespective of that of the host, i.e., the ichneumonids *Aphaereta pallipes*,
213 *Hyposoter exigua*, and the chalcid *Brachymeria lasus*. What they found is that *E. roborator* and *I.*
214 *conquisitor* did not incorporate glycerophosphate into acylglycerols, meaning that the *de novo*
215 triacylglycerol pathway (also known as the Kennedy pathway) was not active. The species that did
216 not duplicate the host's fatty acid composition readily incorporated glycerophosphate.
217 Interestingly, all parasitoids were able to use the monoacylglycerol pathway, where

218 monoacylglycerols are sequentially acylated by acyl-CoA to form di- and subsequently
219 triacylglycerols. For *E. roborator* 75% of triacylglycerols were formed from diacylglycerols, while
220 this was 97% for *I. conquisitor*. The enzymes of the monoacylglycerol pathway further appeared
221 to be substrate-specific in *E. roborator*, meaning that some fatty acid thioesters are more readily
222 used to form triacylglycerols.

223 Overall, the work of Thompson and colleagues has shed an exceptional light on the
224 mechanistic basis of the duplication of fatty acid compositions in some parasitoids. When high
225 levels of triacylglycerols are available in a fat-rich host, partial catabolism of triacylglycerols into
226 diacylglycerols (the main form in which lipid are transported through the hemolymph; Soulages &
227 Wells, 1994; Turunen, 1979) can then facilitate a fast and relatively cheap means to synthesize new
228 triacylglycerols for storage in the parasitoid larvae. The parasitoid larvae thus do not use the *de*
229 *novo* triglyceride pathway, but rather the monoacylglycerol pathway to accomplish this. The
230 similarity in composition is thought to result from acyltransferase specificity favoring fatty acids
231 that are similar to that of the host.

232
233 *2.2 The lack of adult triacylglycerol accumulation*

234 The storage of fat reserves in periods of food abundance is one of the most conserved metabolic
235 responses across all domains of life (Birsoy et al., 2013). Fat is a key energy substrate fueling insect
236 life, including behavior and fitness (i.e., survival, reproduction; Box 1) (Arrese and Soulages,
237 2010). Although parasitoids use dietary carbohydrates to meet short-term energetic demands,
238 parasitoids show an extraordinary physiological response to sugar feeding, unlike other insects.
239 During the 90s and 00s, adults of several parasitoid species were found unable to convert excess
240 carbohydrates into long-term storage in the form of fat. For example, the fat content of *A. tabida*
241 (Ichneumonoidea) was highest at emergence and declined rapidly with age, despite continuous
242 sugar feeding (see Box 1; Ellers, 1996). Similar findings were obtained for species in different
243 superfamilies: Ichneumonoidea (*Ventura canescens* and *Diadegma insulare*; Casas et al., 2003;
244 Lee et al., 2004); Cynipoidea (*Leptopilina heterotoma*; Eijs et al., 1998), Chalcidoidea (*Nasonia*
245 *vitripennis*; *Eupelmus vuilletti*; (Giron and Casas, 2003b; Rivero and West, 2002), demonstrating
246 that this extraordinary physiological phenotype was more common in parasitic Hymenoptera.

247 This lack of fat accumulation was proposed to be an evolutionary consequence of the
248 parasitoid lifestyle (Visser and Ellers, 2008). Efficiently utilizing a single host insect and
249 manipulating its nutrient content (see part 3 on host manipulation) generally leads to a lipid-rich
250 environment for developing parasitoid larvae. Under such conditions, where host fat content is
251 high, fat accumulation is no longer necessary (leading to relaxed selection; Lahti et al., 2009) or
252 too costly to maintain (i.e., leading to selection against fat accumulation). Visser & Ellers (2008),
253 therefore, hypothesized that parasitoids lost the ability for fat accumulation. A comparative
254 approach with more than 90 insect species indeed revealed that 1) loss of fat accumulation is
255 ancestral in parasitic Hymenoptera; 2) the loss of fat accumulation coincided with or followed the
256 evolution of the parasitoid lifestyle; and 3) there is parallel evolution, as the loss of fat accumulation
257 evolved repeatedly and independently in parasitoid flies, beetles and wasps (Visser et al., 2010).

258 There were some exceptions, however, because several species did accumulate fat as adults.
259 Analysis of several parasitoid-related traits revealed that fat accumulation re-evolved in generalist
260 parasitoid species (i.e., parasitizing > 10 host species), including *L. heterotoma*, *Pteromalus*
261 *puparum*, and *Gelis agilis* (Visser et al., 2010). An explanation is that manipulation of host fat
262 content is difficult when many species can serve as potential hosts, making fat accumulation in
263 adults critical for survival and reproduction when fat-poor hosts are used (Visser et al., 2010).

264 The question is which mechanism underlies the loss of fat accumulation in adult
265 parasitoids? There can be several ways in which the fat accumulation phenotype was lost: 1) the
266 gene(s) underlying fatty acid or triacylglycerol synthesis and accumulation were lost (i.e., not
267 present in the genome anymore; as in the yeast *Malassezia globosa*; Xu et al., 2007); 2) the gene(s)
268 have accumulated mutations in the coding regions, leading to non-functionality; 3) the gene(s)
269 remain present, but are silenced through regulatory processes. Consequently, either insufficient
270 quantities of fatty acids and triacylglycerols are produced or accumulation itself is hampered. The
271 loss or non-functionality of key genes in the fatty acid and triacylglycerol metabolism pathways is
272 unlikely, however, because many genes (e.g., fatty acid synthase *fas*, Acetyl-CoA carboxylase *acc*,
273 glycerol-3-phosphate-acyltransferase *gpat*) involved in the conversion of carbohydrates into
274 triacylglycerols, are also essential for the synthesis of other lipid classes and are part of other key
275 metabolic pathways (e.g., pyruvate metabolism, citrate cycle; phospholipids).

276 The first study on the molecular mechanisms and transcriptional profiles underlying the
277 lack of fat accumulation in parasitoids was performed with the chalcid *N. vitripennis*. Genome
278 analysis indeed revealed that coding sequences of *fas* and *acc* did not contain any stop codons,
279 mutations, or signs of genetic damage (Visser et al., 2012). But contrary to findings in other
280 animals, no effect of sugar feeding was found on the transcription levels of *fas* or *acc* (Visser et al.,
281 2012), suggesting that fatty acid synthesis is not taking place. The same was found for *gpat*,
282 involved in the early steps of acylglycerol synthesis (and part of the *de novo* triacylglycerol
283 synthesis pathways). Genes involved in the monoacylglycerol pathway, e.g., *dgat*, did not respond
284 to sugar-feeding neither. Functionality of *fas*, *acc*, as well as other genes and their enzymes were
285 also confirmed in several other parasitoid wasp species (Kraaijeveld et al., 2019; Lammers et al.,
286 2019; Prager et al., 2019; Visser et al., 2021). These results suggest that changes in gene expression,
287 rather than structural genetic changes are involved in the lack of fat accumulation (Visser et al.,
288 2012).

289 For transcriptomic studies, it is essential to know how the phenotype is affected. In the case
290 of Visser et al., (2012), absence of fatty acid synthesis and fat accumulation were determined using
291 stable isotope tracking methods (of deuterium into fatty acids of the neutral lipid fraction) and bulk
292 fat extractions (comparing fat quantities between emerged and fed wasps), respectively. No
293 incorporation of stable isotopes was found in fatty acids of the neutral lipid fraction, indicating that
294 fatty acid synthesis did not take place, as suggested by the lack of gene transcription. In contrast
295 the honeybee *Apis mellifera*, that readily synthesizes and stores fat, did incorporate isotopes into
296 the neutral fat fraction. In *N. vitripennis*, no fat accumulation took place, because fat quantities
297 decreased significantly during life. Even though fat does not accumulate, intermediary metabolites
298 involved in fat metabolism can still be synthesized. For example, Ruther et al., (2021) found that

299 several parasitoid wasp species could synthesize fatty acids, and in the case of *N. vitripennis*, utilize
300 these fatty acids in triacylglycerols and eggs (Multerer et al., 2022). However, no increase in bulk
301 triacylglycerol stores was observed (Ruther et al., 2021). This means that even though fatty acids
302 are synthesized and used to form triacylglycerols, this species still lacks adult triacylglycerol
303 accumulation.

304 To further understand the (lack of) fat accumulation phenotype observed in parasitoids,
305 Visser et al., (2017) compared fatty acid synthesis between *D. melanogaster*, showing typical and
306 significant fat accumulation after feeding, a parasitoid that lacked fat accumulation, *E. vuilletti*,
307 and two parasitoids that readily accumulate fat as adults, *G. agilis* and *Gelis aerator*. Fatty acid
308 synthesis (of C16:0) was indeed very high for species that accumulate fat as adults, while for *E.*
309 *vuilletti* that does not accumulate fat, no fatty acids were synthesized *de novo*. The same patterns
310 were found when fatty acid synthesis was analyzed in the larvae of these species. There thus seems
311 to be concurrence in fatty acid synthesis phenotypes between larvae and adults.

312 Work on fat metabolism in parasitoids has had two distinct spurts in terms of studies, one
313 between the 60s and 80s focused on the similarity of fatty acid compositions between hosts and
314 parasitoid larvae; the other still ongoing to understand why adult parasitoids do not accumulate fat.
315 It may well be that despite the slightly different interests and focus, both phenomena result from
316 the same underlying mechanism(s) and evolved in a similar way. Only one study has so far
317 compared fatty acid compositions and fat accumulation strategies, using a rose gall wasp
318 community, including the parasitoids *Orthopelma mediator* and *Pteromalus bedeguaris* (Visser et
319 al., 2013). Both parasitoids did not accumulate fat as adults, and only the fatty acid composition of
320 *O. mediator* was considerably different from its main host. *O. mediator* is an ichneumonid and *P.*
321 *bedeguaris* a chalcid, both with a very limited host range. Fat accumulation strategy does thus not
322 seem to be related to mimicking of the host's fatty acid composition, as *O. mediator* seems to have
323 its own characteristic fatty acid composition compared to its two potential hosts. Host breadth, with
324 generalists being more likely to copy the fatty acid composition of the host, also does not seem to
325 be related, because *P. bedeguaris* has a similar fatty acid composition as its hosts. This specific
326 system may, however, not be ideal for evaluating the link between fat accumulation, host breadth
327 and fatty acid compositions, because this community occupies a very particular ecological niche.
328 More work is thus needed to determine whether the lack of fat accumulation coincides with
329 mimicking of the fatty acid composition of the host.

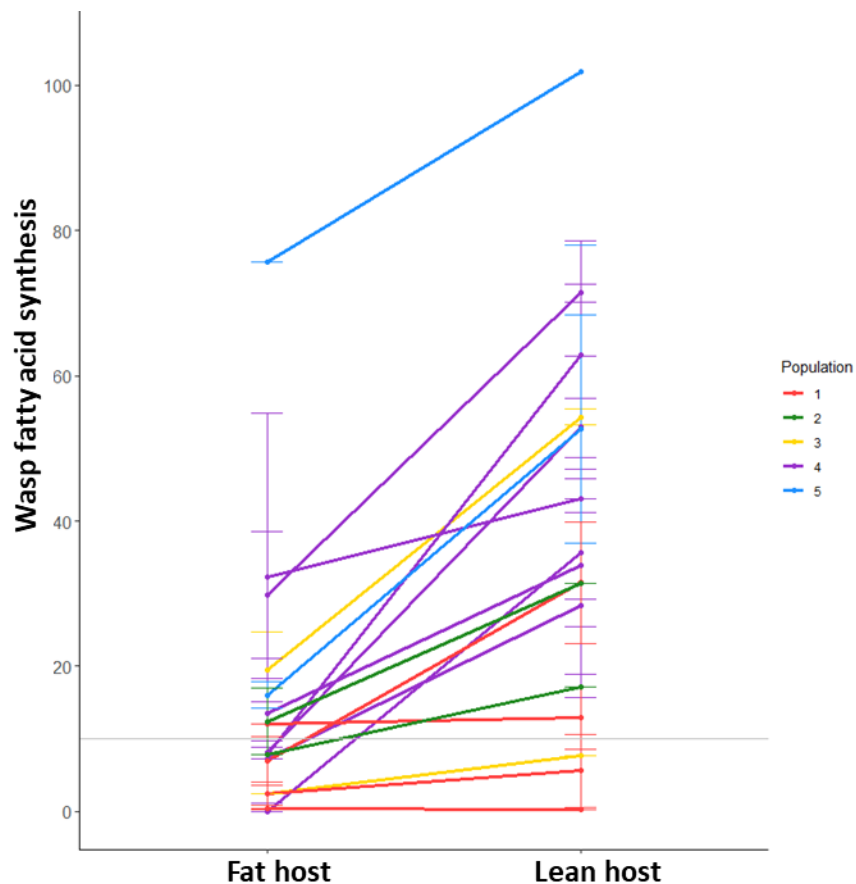
330
331 *2.3 More complex fat synthesis and accumulation phenotypes*

332 While the majority of parasitoids do not accumulate fat as adults, for some parasitoid species
333 repeated experiments hinted at more complicated patterns. For example, Moiroux et al., (2010)
334 proposed that the ability of parasitoid wasps to accumulate fat was closely tied to geographic
335 location and local environmental conditions. To test this, four geographically distinct *Leptopilina*
336 *boulardi* populations were collected. Different fat accumulation phenotypes were found: two
337 populations accumulated fat, while the two other populations did not (Moiroux et al., 2010). These
338 observations could be related to genetic divergence between populations, as the two populations

339 that accumulated fat were genetically closer to each other than to populations that did not
340 (Seyahooei et al., 2011; Visser et al., 2017).

341 Like Moiroux et al., (2010), a large-scale study on the ability of fat accumulation of field-
342 caught *L. heterotoma* populations and other *Leptopilina* species also revealed contrasting fat
343 accumulation phenotypes (Visser et al., 2018). These differences were found to be related to the
344 fat content of the *Drosophila* host used. Indeed, parasitoids emerging from a lean host contained a
345 lower quantity of fat, leading to fat accumulation in adults, while no fat accumulation was observed
346 for parasitoids emerging with a high amount of fat (Visser et al., 2018). A more recent study with
347 several *L. heterotoma* populations confirmed that this species can switch fat synthesis and
348 accumulation on or completely off depending on the host's fat content. Wasps generally start
349 synthesizing and accumulating fat when their developmental environment (i.e., a *Drosophila* larva)
350 is fat-poor (Visser et al., 2021). Variation in fat accumulation strategies in *L. heterotoma* is plastic,
351 meaning that a single genotype can generate different fat synthesis and accumulation phenotypes
352 depending on environmental conditions (Fig. 2). Our future work will center around understanding
353 how ecological conditions affect plastic fatty acid synthesis and fat accumulation.

354



355
356 **Fig 2.** Fatty acid synthesis of *L. heterotoma* families (sharing 75% of their genome) originating from
357 different populations (1 to 5). Reaction norms reveal that some families show plasticity in fatty acid
358 synthesis (synthesis on lean hosts, no synthesis on fat hosts), while other families constitutively synthesize
359 fatty acids or lack fatty acid synthesis (under the gray line). Variation in the slope of reaction norms suggests

360 that there is genetic variation for plasticity of fatty acid synthesis, meaning that plasticity itself can evolve
361 in response to selection. Redrawn from Visser et al., 2021.
362

363 **3 Lipid metabolism in parasitized hosts**

364 Part 2 of this chapter detailed the progress made with research on fatty acid synthesis and fat
365 accumulation of the parasitoid itself, but the parasitoid's unique lifestyle has also led to the
366 evolution of intricate mechanisms to manipulate host metabolism. A parasitoid relies on only a
367 single host to complete its development and to obtain sufficient nutrients to fuel adult life. There
368 is thus an incredible advantage for the parasitoid to “hijack” the host's metabolism for its own
369 benefit. Considering that many parasitoids do not accumulate substantial fat quantities as adults
370 (part 2) and fat is of key importance for life histories and fitness (Box 1), manipulating host lipid
371 metabolism so that host lipids become more accessible or available for the parasitoid has a clear
372 adaptive value.

373 Before exploring how host lipid metabolism can be manipulated, there are some parasitoid-
374 specific traits that have a large impact on host manipulation. Parasitoids show tremendous diversity
375 related to their mode of life and general biology (Fig. 1; Godfray, 1994; Quicke, 1997). An
376 important distinction can be made, for example, between parasitoid species that arrest the host's
377 development, idiobionts, and species that allow the host to continue feeding and growing,
378 koinobionts. For idiobionts, resource availability for the parasitoid is largely fixed close to the time
379 of oviposition, while for koinobionts resources generally keep on accumulating, at least for some
380 time while the parasitoid is developing. Among koinobionts, a further distinction can be made
381 between species that stop host development prematurely, reducing final host body size, and species
382 that prolong host development, increasing final host body size (Cuny and Poelman, 2022). Several
383 studies have indeed reported that host food consumption is reduced following parasitism by
384 koinobiont parasitoids (Kaeslin et al., 2005; Morales et al., 2007; Pruijssers et al., 2009; Shi et al.,
385 2015; Thompson, 1982a, 1983), while some parasitized hosts feed longer (Thompson and Redak,
386 2008). The extent to which a parasitoid can affect host development can also be dependent on the
387 environment (i.e., phenotypic plasticity). The braconid *Meteorus pulchricornis*, for example,
388 increases final size of the small lepidopteran host *Plutella xylostella* by 30%, while final size of the
389 larger lepidopteran host *Mythimna separata* is increased by 95% (Harvey et al., 2010). The host
390 species on which a koinobiont parasitoid develops can thus have a major impact on resource levels
391 and resource availability, which in turn can have major consequences for fat synthesis and
392 accumulation of the parasitoid itself (part 2.2; Visser et al., 2021).

393 Parasitoids are highly efficient in carrying over resources from their host, which for some
394 species can mount to >90% of the host's body mass (Harvey et al., 2009). An increase in fat
395 availability and content for the developing parasitoid can have a major impact on both larval
396 survival and adult fitness (Rivers et al., 1998). When more fat can be carried over from the host,
397 the parasitoid has more energetic reserves available for allocation into fitness-related traits (Box
398 1). On the other hand, too much host tissue can be detrimental when complete consumption of host
399 tissues is required (Harvey, 1996; Harvey and Strand, 2002). Indeed, many parasitoids are so-called

400 “tissue-feeders”, where most or all host tissues are consumed during the parasitoid’s development
401 (Fig. 1). Within the superfamily Ichneumonoidea, all gregarious (i.e., with multiple offspring
402 emerging from a single host) koinobiont endoparasitoids (e.g., *Microplitis* sp. and *Cotesia* sp., as
403 well as the family Cheloniidae) have, however, evolved the ability to feed mostly on hemolymph
404 (Harvey and Malcicka, 2016). These “hemolymph-feeders” initially only feed on hemolymph and
405 part of the fat body of the host but exit the host during the last larval stage to pupate externally
406 (Fig. 1). The adaptive significance of hemolymph feeding is that a wider range of host
407 developmental stages and sizes can be parasitized, including hosts that are much larger than the
408 parasitoid itself.

409 The question is whether hemolymph or tissue-feeding koinobionts have evolved different
410 strategies to manipulate host metabolism. We could expect that for tissue-feeders, increasing fat
411 body lipid content is more important, while for hemolymph-feeders an increase or steady flow of
412 hemolymph lipids can increase the efficiency of scavenging from the host. This could be tested
413 using host-parasitoid systems where the same host species is attacked by multiple parasitoids that
414 differ in feeding strategy. Koinobiont microgastrine braconids and campoplegine ichneumonids
415 may be ideal systems for testing this, e.g., *P. xylostella* parasitized by *Diadegma semiclausum*
416 (tissue-feeder) and *Cotesia vestalis* (hemolymph-feeder), *Pieris brassicae* parasitized by
417 *Hyposoter ebeninus* (tissue-feeder) and *Cotesia glomerata* (hemolymph-feeder), *Spodoptera*
418 *littoralis* parasitized by *Hyposoter didymator* (tissue-feeder) and *Cotesia marginiventris*
419 (hemolymph-feeder). Comparing host manipulation strategies of hemolymph versus tissue-feeders
420 developing on the same host offers a unique opportunity to increase our understanding of the
421 mechanisms underlying host manipulation.

422

423 3.1 The effects of parasitism, including the developing parasitoid itself

424 The easiest, and sometimes only, way to determine how host metabolism is affected by parasitism
425 is to compare unparasitized with parasitized hosts. Overall, host lipid levels can increase, remain
426 stable, or decrease for a variety of reasons (Table 1). For example, parasitism of the locust *C.*
427 *terminifera* by the parasitoid fly *Trichopsidea oestracea* led to a steep increase in overall lipid
428 content, although the mechanism has remained unclear (Horwood and Hales, 1991). In another
429 parasitoid fly, *Blepharipa sericariae*, the developing larvae were found to secrete a peptide that
430 inhibits lipid transport in its host silkworm, *Philosamia cynthia prieri* (Hayakawa, 1987). *B.*
431 *sericariae* eggs are consumed by the host during larval feeding, and after parasitoid hatching the
432 parasitoid larvae remain in the second instar until the following spring when the larvae molt and
433 start feeding on the host’s pupal tissues. Lipid release from the fat body into the hemolymph was
434 reduced by 50-70%, and lipid uptake by lipophorin (used for lipid transport) was inhibited by ~60%
435 through the action of a parasitoid-secreted peptide. Similar results were obtained when the locust
436 *Locusta migratoria* was used, where the decrease in lipid-uptake mainly affected the diacylglycerol
437 component of the lipid fraction. This finding supports the idea that lipid uptake and transport in the
438 hemolymph, which typically entails the transport of diacylglycerols in insects (Turunen, 1979; but
439 see Ford & van Heusden (1994) who identified a lipophorin transporting triacylglycerols in *Aedes*

440 *aegypti*), is inhibited. Considering it takes about a year for *B. sericariae* to complete its
441 development, inhibition of lipid transport by lipophorin conserves the triacylglycerol stores of the
442 host's fat body. This is needed for the developing parasitoid to be able to complete its development
443 in spring. *T. oestracea* takes a similar time to develop as *B. sericariae*; hence both parasitoid flies
444 have optimized host use, either by increasing or conserving the lipid stores of their respective hosts.

445 So far, most work on host manipulation has been done on laboratory-reared hymenopteran
446 parasitoids. Unlike the dipteran parasitoids described above, many hymenopteran parasitoids
447 complete their development within several weeks. Major physiological changes can already be
448 brought about within a short timespan, including a decrease in lipid levels. There are several, not
449 mutually exclusive, reasons why lipid levels are lower in parasitized compared to unparasitized
450 hosts: 1) the host is not able to develop its own fat body (Dahlman, 1970); 2) the host's physiology
451 is redirected; 3) host and parasitoid compete for lipid resources, with both species consuming and
452 utilizing lipids.

453 The koinobiont parasitoid *H. exiguae* feeds mainly on lepidopteran host hemolymph
454 (*Trichoplusia ni*) during the first 8 days of development (when the host moults into its third and
455 fourth instar), after which the larvae exit the host to pupate externally (Thompson, 1982b).
456 Parasitized larvae had a lower concentration and total lipid content compared to unparasitized
457 larvae, mainly near the end of parasitoid development. The reason is that parasitized, unlike
458 unparasitized larvae, do not enter metamorphosis. Metamorphosis is an energetically costly process
459 and disruption of the host *T. ni*'s physiology inhibits the preparatory mechanisms to initiate
460 metamorphosis, including lipid accumulation, explaining the lower lipid levels during later
461 developmental stages of parasitized hosts. Lower lipid levels in parasitized hosts may superficially
462 seem a disadvantage for the parasitoid, but for *H. exiguae* redirection of the host's metabolism
463 suffices for the parasitoid to successfully complete development.

464 Competition for host resources is also apparent in the *H. exiguae*-*T. ni* system. Lipid levels
465 were found to be similar between parasitized and unparasitized starved hosts (Thompson, 1982b).
466 In terms of the host's physiological state, parasitism thus seems to mimic starvation (at least to
467 some extent, because starvation was found to be metabolically more demanding; Thompson,
468 1982a). In contrast to a starved host, however, a parasitized host still has access to food (at least in
469 this system, where host development continues), which means that host and parasitoid are in direct
470 competition for lipids (Dahlman and Greene, 1981; Nakamatsu and Tanaka, 2004). Lipids of
471 parasitized *T. ni* were, however, not depleted completely, suggesting that the parasitoid utilizes
472 resources in such a way that the host does not die prematurely (which would also lead to death of
473 the parasitoid).

474 The above studies contribute to our general understanding of how lipid metabolism of the
475 host is affected following parasitism, including the investigation of rare field-collected hosts that
476 are typically more difficult to study. Experiments focusing solely on the effect of parasitism can,
477 however, be confounded by other factors that can affect host metabolism, such as venom,
478 teratocytes, and mutualistic viruses, which will be discussed in more detail in the following
479 sections.

480

481 3.1 Venom-induced changes in host lipid metabolism

482 All female Hymenoptera produce venom in a specialized venom-gland that is a part of the
483 reproductive system (Pennacchio and Strand, 2006; Poirié et al., 2014). The venom of parasitoids
484 is injected in the host together with the egg(s) and consists of both proteinaceous and non-
485 proteinaceous compounds (Moreau and Asgari, 2015). The venom of ecto and endoparasitoids
486 seems to serve different functions, for the former mainly inducing host paralysis and for the latter
487 mainly interfering with the host's immune system. For all parasitoids, nutrient acquisition during
488 development is critical for survival, investment in costly metamorphosis, and to fuel (at least part
489 of) adult life. In this subsection, we will focus solely on the effects of venom on host lipid
490 metabolism.

491 492 3.1.1 Lipid-related venom components

493 Venom components related to lipid metabolism have been identified in 23 different parasitoid
494 species. The function of venom enzymes can be divided into four different categories: lipid
495 catabolism, transport, synthesis, and storage (Table 2). When venom is injected, enzymes can
496 immediately start freeing lipids for the developing parasitoid. Cathepsin for example, contributes
497 to disruption of the host's fat body (Becchimanzi et al., 2020). On a cellular level, phospholipases
498 play a key role for increasing nutrient transfer from the cytosol to the hemolymph and for
499 disintegrating cells to release their content. Various phospholipases have been identified in
500 parasitoid venom that differ in their specific site of action in the substrate. Phospholipase A1, for
501 example, disrupts phospholipid packaging of cell membranes, leading to cell lysis, while
502 phospholipase A2 hydrolyzes glycerophospholipids in membranes to release free fatty acids and
503 lysophospholipids (Perez-Riverol et al., 2019). Phospholipases can indeed be part of a complex
504 pathway affecting the host's lipid metabolism. The venom of *N. vitripennis*, for example, modifies
505 cell membrane permeability leading to an influx of Na^+ in the cell (Danneels et al., 2010; Rivers et
506 al., 2002). An increase in Na^+ can subsequently activate phospholipase C, leading to an increase in
507 inositol-3-phosphate (a signaling molecule) and the release of Ca^{2+} from the mitochondrion.
508 Calcium in turn activates phospholipase A2, stimulating fatty acid synthesis. Within parasitoid
509 venom, phospholipases thus play an important role in making lipids available for parasitoid
510 offspring.

511 The venom of 13 parasitoids was also found to contain several different lipases, mainly
512 involved in the catabolism of different lipids, including mono, di-, and triglycerides (Wang et al.,
513 2020b). In *P. puparum*, investigation of lipases in the venom revealed that different lipase families
514 are present, but also that many lipases are non-catalytic (Wang et al., 2020b). An explanation is
515 that the non-catalytic lipases have acquired a new function, mainly for binding and transporting
516 lipid.

517 Once lipids are released from the fat body, they need to be transported to the developing
518 parasitoid through the hemolymph. Several hemolymph transport enzymes are contained within
519 the venom, including apolipoprotein and apolipoprotein (Table 2). In addition to these more typical
520 enzymes involved in lipid transport, there have now been several reports of odorant binding
521 proteins being part of the parasitoid venom (e.g., in *N. vitripennis*, *P. puparum*, and 8 other species;

522 Table 2). Odorant binding proteins typically serve for the transport of odorant molecules (e.g.,
523 pheromones) to olfactory receptors. In the parasitoid venom, odorant binding proteins are
524 hypothesized to play a role as fatty acid and fatty acid ester carriers, as was found in several other
525 insects (e.g., the ant *Camponotus japonicus*; Ishida et al., 2013; the blowfly *Phormia regina*;
526 González et al., 2009). Like lipases, existing odorant binding proteins thus seem to have acquired
527 new functions.

528 The venom of some species also contains enzymes that are involved in lipid synthesis,
529 including fatty acids, glycosphingolipids, and diacylglycerols. So far, no clear explanation has been
530 proposed as to why the venom would contain enzymes involved in lipogenesis. Focusing on fatty
531 acid synthase for the synthesis of fatty acids (mainly palmitate, C16:0), and phosphatidate
532 phosphatase for the synthesis of diacylglycerols, some of the hosts exploited could be relatively
533 lipid-poor. The aphid *Acyrtosiphon pisum* and the scale insect *Parasaissetia nigra*, for example,
534 are plant sap-sucking insects, a nutritional resource that is expected to contain a lot of
535 carbohydrates, but not many lipids. Lipid synthesis enzymes present in the venom can then utilize
536 precursors, such as carbohydrates, from the host to increase lipid content and availability. The
537 presence of fatty acid and diacylglycerol synthesizing enzymes in the venom may aid the
538 developing parasitoid in obtaining sufficient lipids.

539 Three enzymes implicated in adipocyte maturation and/or lipid storage were found in
540 several parasitoid species. An explanation for an increase of lipid storage in adipocytes could be
541 that parasitism and envenomation alter metabolism in such a way that more precursors for
542 acylglycerols become available. Indeed, the synthesis of fatty acids and diacylglycerols described
543 above is an example. At the time of oviposition, the parasitoid is still in the egg or early larval
544 stage, a time at which absorption of nutrients may be relatively little (compared to later
545 developmental stages). For example, during the early stages of parasitism, the braconids *Aphidius*
546 *ervi* and *Toxoneuron nigriceps* absorb nutrients through the epidermis (Caccia et al., 2005;
547 Grimaldi et al., 2006). In parasitoid offspring in general, some time may be needed to develop a
548 fully functioning gut and absorption through the epidermis or the anal vesicle in early larval stages
549 may be more common (Edson and Vinson, 1977). Storage of large fat reserves is also expected to
550 take some time, with fat droplets becoming clearly visible only during later larval instars (e.g., in
551 *E. vuilletti* and *Gelis* sp., Pers. Obs.). When fat precursors accumulate in the hemolymph of the
552 host, initial fat storage in adipocytes can provide a reserve to be consumed by the developing
553 parasitoid at a later time. Increased fat storage was indeed found for the parasitoid *N. vitripennis*
554 when parasitizing its preferred fly host *Sarcophaga bullata* (Rivers and Denlinger, 1995, 1994).

555 556 3.1.2 Venom-induced alterations in host lipid metabolism

557 Venom generally leads to an increase in lipid levels either in the whole body, the fat body
558 or the hemolymph (Table 1). There are some exceptions, however, where lipid levels were lower,
559 or no changes were observed. For example, in parasitized *S. littoralis*, Transmission Electron
560 Microscopy revealed that the fat body rapidly released its content (glycogen and lipids) through
561 cell vacuolization and reabsorption (Becchimanzi et al., 2017). This process was aided by
562 haemocytes surrounding the fat body and increased cathepsin L activity. Hemolymph titers of

563 glycerolipids decreased during 48 hours, probably because the host's tissues require fat for
564 ongoing, albeit reduced, metabolic activities. For the lepidopteran *Tenebrio molitor* parasitized by
565 the bethylid *Scleroderma sichuanensis*, fat body and hemolymph lipid content also decreased
566 following envenomation and parasitism (Zhuo et al., 2016). This decrease could be due both to
567 consumption of the parasitoid and the host's requirement for lipid. Unlike parasitism, where the fat
568 body was degraded, envenomation alone did not alter the appearance of the fat body, suggesting
569 that factors other than venom are needed to rupture the fat body.

570 Host manipulation requires fine-tuned physiological interactions between parasitoid and
571 host, which can be highly species-specific. For example, the parasitoid *N. vitripennis* is highly
572 polyphagous, being able to parasitize more than 60 different host species (Desjardins et al., 2010).
573 Yet, despite its wide host range, *N. vitripennis* prefers to oviposit on the fly *S. bullata* (Desjardins
574 et al., 2010). Rivers and Denlinger (1995) looked at the effect of parasitism by *N. vitripennis* on
575 four distinct fly species, including *S. bullata*, *P. regina*, *Musca domestica*, and *Sarcodexia*
576 *sternodontus*. Only in *S. bullata* marked increases in fat body and hemolymph lipids were observed
577 (Rivers and Denlinger, 1995). For *P. regina* and *M. domestica* hemolymph lipids also increased
578 following parasitism, but for the fly *S. sternodontus* fat body and hemolymph lipids decreased. For
579 *S. bullata* both envenomation and parasitism actually led to increased fat content, which could
580 result from active fatty acid and fat synthesis by the host. Parasitism by the wasp *Lysiphlebus*
581 *japonica* of the aphid *Aphis glossypii* led to upregulation of almost all genes in the glycerolipid
582 pathway, including diacylglycerol acyltransferase that produces triacylglycerols from
583 diacylglycerols, revealing that venom can indeed induce lipogenesis in hosts (Zhang et al., 2015).

584 The braconid parasitoid *Cotesia kariyai* (that parasitizes the lepidopteran *Pseudaletia*
585 *separata*) can itself be parasitized by the pteromalid *Trichomalopsis apanteloctena* once *C. kariyai*
586 leaves its own host to pupate externally (Nakamatsu and Tanaka, 2004). Lipid levels in developing
587 pupae of *C. kariyai* gradually decrease, and lipid content of *C. kariyai* determines the size of *T.*
588 *apanteloctena*. An increase in host fat content may indeed not be expected here, because the
589 primary parasitoid host, *C. kariyai*, may itself show little to no fat accumulation (as is the case for
590 other *Cotesia* species; Visser et al., 2010).

591 Zooming in on the interaction between *N. vitripennis* and *S. bullata*, the elevation in host
592 hemolymph lipids depended on the location where oviposition occurred on the host pupa. A
593 posterior sting, where parasitism occurs under natural conditions, led to a steeper increase in lipids
594 compared to an anterior sting (Rivers and Yoder, 1996). *N. vitripennis* larvae developing on
595 posterior-oviposited hosts also contained more fat than anterior-oviposited hosts, suggesting indeed
596 that more lipids are available. Elevation of host hemolymph lipids was also associated with the
597 number of developing larvae. A higher number of eggs laid led to a higher increase in hemolymph
598 lipid content. A similar finding was obtained for another gregarious parasitoid, *Trichomalopsis*
599 *near americana*. This would suggest that venom increases nutrient content of the host in such a
600 manner that competition can be avoided between multiple offspring developing from the same host
601 and the host itself. Overall, the work on *N. vitripennis* suggests that idiobiont parasitoids may not
602 be as restricted as previously thought when it comes to resource availability, including lipids
603 (Rivers and Yoder, 1996).

604 Only few researchers investigated both the composition of the venom and their effects on
605 host lipid metabolism. Wang et al., (2020b) looked at lipases and their diversification focusing on
606 venom of the chalcid *P. puparum*, but also investigated how host lipid metabolism was affected
607 following parasitism. Overall, parasitism led to a decrease of triacylglycerols and several
608 phospholipids (e.g., sphingomyelin, phosphatidylcholine etc...) in the fat body, whereas these lipids
609 increased in the hemolymph (Table 1). The increase of triacylglycerols in the hemolymph was
610 concurrent with a decrease in diacylglycerols. In *P. puparum* venom, diacylglycerol acyltransferase
611 (DGAT2), catalyzing the last step of triacylglycerols synthesis from diacylglycerols, is not present.
612 The venom does, however, contain multiple lipases (some with missing catalytic triads, potentially
613 involved in lipid binding and transport), which suggests that the host's enzymatic machinery
614 facilitates the conversion of di- to triacylglycerols. In the fat body, increasing triacylglycerol levels
615 were mainly observed for highly unsaturated triacylglycerols, while triacylglycerols with fewer
616 double bonds decreased. An increase in unsaturation generally increases triacylglycerol solubility.
617 There was, however, no difference in unsaturation levels of triacylglycerols in the hemolymph;
618 hence it is unclear what role the unsaturation plays in the fat body (i.e., higher solubility does not
619 lead to increased transport and presence of unsaturated triacylglycerols in the hemolymph for use
620 by the parasitoid larva). Desaturases were not found in the venom of *P. puparum*, but a desaturase
621 was found to be upregulated in the venom glands. It thus remains unclear whether the wasp's
622 venom or the host is responsible for the observed changes in triacylglycerol saturation levels.

623 The decrease of some phospholipids in the fat body and increase in the hemolymph further
624 suggests that destruction of the fat body and fat body cell membranes ensues quickly after
625 parasitism by *P. puparum* (Wang et al., 2020b). Parasitized hosts further had an increased
626 cholesteryl ester content in the hemolymph, suggesting that cholesterol transport increased. Having
627 been located in the Dufour's gland (i.e., which is part of the anatomy of the ovipositor) suggests
628 that the cholesteryl esters may be derived from the venom. Lipases with potential cholesteryl
629 esterase function have been identified from the salivary glands of developing *P. puparum* larvae,
630 which could subsequently act on cholesteryl esters injected by the mother. This may allow the
631 developing parasitoid to acquire essential sterols (that insects cannot synthesize) that may
632 subsequently serve important functions as hormone-precursors, signaling molecules, and
633 components of cell membranes. Sterols were further found to increase egg viability (when obtained
634 through host-feeding in adults) (Mondy et al., 2006).

635

636 *3.2 Polydnviruses increase lipid availability for the developing parasitoid*

637 Polydnvirus are viruses associated with endoparasitoid wasps (i.e., the primary hosts), persisting
638 as proviruses (i.e., DNA sequences integrated in the host genome) in every germ and somatic cell
639 of the wasp. Viral replication occurs only in calyx cells (that are part of the wasp's reproductive
640 tract) during the pupal and adult stage. Polydnviruses can be grouped into two distinct genera:
641 Bracoviruses, associated with the braconid family, and Ichnoviruses, associated with the
642 ichneumonid family (Strand and Burke, 2013). Braco- and Ichnoviruses each have a distinct
643 morphology of the virion (that enters the secondary host, which is the host of the parasitoid) and

644 an independent evolutionary origin (Strand and Burke, 2012). Polydnviruses do, however, have a
645 similar life cycle, where virions are injected in the host during oviposition along with the egg and
646 the venom (Strand and Burke, 2013). After virion injection, the virus integrates into the host
647 genome to express virulence genes. The virus thus participates in the parasitization process,
648 affecting the host's immune system, host growth, and metabolism (Strand and Burke, 2013). This
649 subsection focuses on the effects polydnviruses have on (secondary) host lipid metabolism.

650 The braconid *Chelonus inanitus* is an endoparasitoid that produces venom and a bracovirus.
651 Kaeslin et al., (2005) disentangled the role of the venom, the bracovirus, and the developing
652 parasitoid. This is possible when comparing parasitized hosts, with unparasitized hosts, but also
653 using pseudoparasitized hosts, where the eggs within the mother are killed prior to oviposition
654 using x-rays. Pseudoparasitized hosts thus receive the venom and the bracovirus, but the parasitoid
655 larva does not hatch. Venom proteins disappear within 1-2 days after parasitization, while the
656 polydnvirus remains throughout parasitoid development. The parasitoid larva, along with
657 polydnvirus, cause an accumulation of whole-body lipids during development (Table 1). During
658 the last host larval instar, most lipids had accumulated in parasitized hosts only, meaning that the
659 parasitoid larva itself also plays a major role in increasing host fat accumulation.

660 In a recent study, Wang et al., (2021) revealed that the bracovirus associated with *C. vestalis*
661 plays an important role in regulating lipid metabolism of the host moth *P. xylostella*. Following
662 parasitization, whole-body triacylglyceride levels decreased, as did hemolymph fat levels, although
663 there was a peak in the hemolymph at the onset of the last larval stage. The secondary host insect
664 can acquire fatty acids from its diet that are subsequently absorbed by the gut, resynthesized into
665 lipids, and transported to the fat body with lipoproteins. Parasitized hosts indeed showed reduced
666 formation of neutral lipid droplets, meaning that an alteration of host lipid absorption and synthesis
667 underlies the decrease in whole-body lipids. *C. vestalis* produces venom containing bracoviruses
668 as well as teratocytes. To determine which parasitoid-associated factor led to depressed lipid levels,
669 Wang et al., (2021) also used pseudoparasitized wasps, thereby removing the effect of teratocytes
670 and the developing parasitoid. Injection of venom alone did not result in any changes; hence the
671 bracovirus was found to be responsible for altered lipid levels in the host. Focusing on the
672 mechanism at play, transcriptomics led to the identification of several bracovirus genes that could
673 be involved in manipulating host lipids. Expression of one of these genes, *CvBV 9-2*, was indeed
674 found to be responsible for reducing triacylglycerol levels in parasitized larvae by increasing the
675 expression of a tachykinin gene (*PxTk*) in the host gut suppressing lipogenesis.

676
677 *3.3 Parasitoid-derived teratocytes increase fat availability for the parasitoid*
678 Teratocytes are specialized cells derived from the dissociation of the cellular membrane
679 surrounding the parasitoid embryo during its development that are released in the host's
680 hemolymph during parasitoid hatching (Strand, 2014). Teratocytes are produced by some
681 subfamilies within Braconidae (i.e., Microgastrinae, Meteorinae, Euphorinae, Aphidiinae) and
682 Platygasteridae (i.e., Scelioninae, Telenominae, Teleasinae), all of which are endoparasitoids
683 (Dahlman, 1990; Strand, 2014). Teratocyte-like cells have also been reported in the Ichneumonidae

684 (Rouleux-Bonnin et al., 1999) and Chalcidoidea (Pedata et al., 2003; Strand, 1986). The number
685 of teratocytes is species-specific, and can range from 10 (e.g., *Telenomus heliothidis*,
686 Platygasteridae; (Strand et al., 1988) to more than 1000 (e.g., *M. pulchricornis*, Braconidae; Suzuki
687 & Tanaka, 2007) (Strand, 2014). Teratocytes help to disrupt host growth, inhibit host
688 metamorphosis, but also seem to play a role in evading the host's immune system (Ali et al., 2013;
689 Dahlman et al., 2003; Strand, 2014). Teratocytes further aid in nutrient acquisition for the
690 developing parasitoids, particularly lipids (Falabella et al., 2005, 2000; Nakamatsu et al., 2002; Qin
691 et al., 2000; Suzuki and Tanaka, 2007).

692 Ultrastructure studies revealed that once released in the host's hemolymph, teratocytes
693 show both morphological and metabolic changes (Pennacchio et al., 1994; Strand et al., 1986;
694 Volkoff and Colazza, 1992; Zhang et al., 1994), e.g., teratocyte size greatly increases (de Buron
695 and Beckage, 1997; Strand and Wong, 1991; Volkoff and Colazza, 1992). To promote nutrient
696 exchange between the teratocyte's intracellular and extracellular space, teratocytes exhibit long
697 microvilli on their surface (to increase the surface for absorption/secretion), as well as large
698 exosome-like spherical vesicles (containing lipids and other nutrients; (Hotta et al., 2001; Salvia et
699 al., 2019; Shelby et al., 2014; Sluss, 1968). An abundant rough endoplasmic reticulum, numerous
700 mitochondria and an extensive vacuolization are observed in the cytoplasm (de Buron and Beckage,
701 1997; Gerling and Orion, 1973; Sluss, 1968; Volkoff and Colazza, 1992). These morphological
702 and metabolic characteristics confirm that teratocytes can absorb nutrients or secrete proteins into
703 the host's hemolymph (Dahlman and Vinson, 1993; Salvia et al., 2019; Sluss, 1968). Teratocytes
704 further do not divide after being released, but often become highly polyploid associated with an
705 increase of the nuclear area, stimulating metabolic activity (Gerling and Orion, 1973; Hotta et al.,
706 2001; Strand and Wong, 1991). In the insect fat body, DNA polyploidy caused by juvenile hormone
707 stimulation was found to increase the transcription of vitellogenin (Dittmann et al., 1989; Nair et
708 al., 1981), suggesting that teratocyte activity could be enhanced by polyploidy (Hotta et al., 2001).

709 Teratocytes supply nutrients to the developing parasitoid by digesting the host's fat body
710 during early parasitoid larval stages when mouth parts are not yet formed. In the host-parasitoid
711 system *P. separata*-*C. kariyai* system, triacylglycerol levels of the host decreased 6 days after
712 parasitism but increased in the parasitoid's second instar larva from the 7th day (Nakamatsu et al.,
713 2002). The increased lipase activity in the parasitoid larva, as well as the presence of lipid granules
714 in the parasitoid midgut, confirmed the ingestion of host lipids by the parasitoid (Nakamatsu et al.,
715 2002). Interestingly, teratocytes were attached to the host fat body and locally released collagenases
716 (i.e., enzymes that break down the collagen sheath surrounding the host's fat body) to disrupt the
717 host fat body matrix and release fat body cells (Nakamatsu et al., 2002). Teratocytes of other
718 parasitoid species, such as the braconids *Microplitis mediator* or *M. pulchricornis*, seem to play a
719 similar role (Qin et al., 2000; Suzuki and Tanaka, 2007).

720 Teratocytes release several other enzymes that can enhance host fat body digestion until
721 complete consumption: a teratocyte-specific carboxylesterase, assumed to be involved in the
722 hydrolysis of host lipids (*Dinocampus coccinellae*; (Gopalapillai et al., 2005), enolases and lipases
723 (*A. ervi*, *Microplitis demolitor*, *D. coccinellae*; (Burke and Strand, 2014; Falabella et al., 2009;
724 Kadono-Okuda et al., 1998), and cathepsin (Burke and Strand, 2014). These lipid-catabolic

725 enzymes were also found in the venom of some parasitoid species (Table 2). Finally, in the
726 parasitoid *T. nigriceps*, teratocytes produced a chitinase during the last larval stage of the parasitoid
727 that seemed to be involved in the digestion of host cuticle (i.e., lipids), aiding the egression of the
728 parasitoid larvae from the host to pupate externally (Cônsoli et al., 2005).

729 In addition to fat body disruption, teratocytes also facilitate the transport of lipids from the
730 host hemolymph to the developing larvae. For example, teratocytes of *A. ervi* produce an
731 extracellular fatty acid binding protein that transports fatty acids in the host's hemolymph
732 (Falabella et al., 2005, 2000; Pennacchio et al., 1999). This protein showed a high affinity for C14-
733 C18 saturated fatty acids, oleic acid (C18:1), as well as a longer chain polyunsaturated fatty acid
734 (arachidonic acid; C20:4) (Falabella et al., 2005). Immunolocalization revealed that the fatty acid
735 binding protein was distributed around lipid particles abundantly present in the hemolymph of the
736 parasitized host, but also in the external epidermal layer and the midgut lumen of parasitoid larvae
737 (Caccia et al., 2012; Falabella et al., 2005). Altogether these findings suggest that 1) fatty acids can
738 be absorbed by the epidermal epithelium of the developing parasitoid, as was already found for
739 amino acids and sugars (Caccia et al., 2012) and 2) fatty acid binding protein transports key fatty
740 acids in the host hemolymph to the growing parasitoid larva, which can subsequently be absorbed
741 and stored as triacylglycerols (Caccia et al., 2012). Similar lipid transport enzymes were found in
742 parasitoid venom, such as annexin, apolipoproteins and calreticulin (Table 2) (Burke and Strand,
743 2014).

744 A decrease in teratocyte number during later stages of parasitoid development has been
745 observed in several parasitoid species (de Buron and Beckage, 1997; Gopalapillai et al., 2005;
746 Kadono-Okuda et al., 1995; Suzuki and Tanaka, 2007; Volkoff and Colazza, 1992). Such a
747 decrease can be explained by the appearance of multiple bleb structures (i.e., teratocyte anatomical
748 deformations resulting from the enlargement or coalescence of microvilli; Buron & Beckage, 1997;
749 Zhang et al., 1994) on the teratocyte membrane, which is symptomatic of apoptotic cells (de Buron
750 and Beckage, 1997; Hotta et al., 2001). Another explanation is that teratocytes are progressively
751 consumed by the parasitoid larva(e) (Kadono-Okuda et al., 1995; Strand and Wong, 1991).
752 Teratocytes absorb nutrients and produce proteins that can be released in host's hemolymph, but
753 also stored inside the cells (Okuda and Kadono-Okuda, 1995). Indeed, teratocytes usually display
754 a high abundance of proteins (e.g., glycoproteins, vitellogenin, amino-acids) as well as lipids (i.e.,
755 lipid droplets) (de Buron and Beckage, 1997; Gopalapillai et al., 2005; Kadono-Okuda et al., 1998;
756 Okuda and Kadono-Okuda, 1995) that can constitute an additional source of nutrients for
757 successful parasitoid development. On the contrary, no decrease in teratocyte number was observed
758 in other parasitoids, such as *C. kariyai*, suggesting that in this species, the teratocytes are not
759 consumed by the parasitoid and may have another potential role in host regulation or parasitoid
760 development at a later stage (Hotta et al., 2001; Suzuki and Tanaka, 2007).

761 **4 Conclusions and future perspectives**

762 Parasitoids are fascinating creatures, particularly with regard to their lipid metabolism. Parasitoid
763 larvae can mimic the fatty acid composition of their host, because there is no *de novo* triglyceride
764 synthesis. The adults of many parasitoid species do not accumulate fat at all, with the exception of

765 some polyphagous species that typically develop on fat-poor hosts. More recently, fat synthesis
766 and accumulation was found to vary in response to environmental conditions, i.e., is plastic, in the
767 wasp *L. heterotoma*. This may be more common also in other parasitoid species (e.g., *L. boulardi*,
768 *N. vitripennis*), although this remains to be explicitly tested. Having a system where fat synthesis
769 and accumulation phenotypes vary opens up a lot of new research opportunities. For example, we
770 need to know under which ecological conditions certain phenotypes are favored or not, preferably
771 using natural populations. We can further continue to dig into the mechanisms underlying fat
772 synthesis and accumulation (and the lack thereof), by experimentally manipulating parasitoid
773 phenotypes (e.g., by changing host fat content; Enriquez et al., 2022). Several other research
774 directions focusing on parasitoid lipids, including crossroads with biomedicine and parasitoid-
775 microbe interactions, can also be envisioned (as highlighted by Visser et al., 2023) . This shows
776 that, despite the considerable research effort into parasitoid lipid metabolism since the 60s, there is
777 still a great diversity of research opportunities that can (and hopefully will be) pursued.

778 Parasitoids have become masters in host manipulation with the sheer number of
779 mechanisms by which host lipid metabolism can be affected as proof. The diversity of parasitoids
780 and thus host manipulation strategies may seem daunting to try and elucidate, because most
781 responses are host and parasitoid-species specific. Using hosts and parasitoids that share an
782 evolutionary history is, therefore, essential to further our understanding of host manipulation in a
783 biologically meaningful way. *P. puparum* is one of the few species with which complementary
784 studies have been performed to understand the entire process of host manipulation, from
785 physiology to genes and their diversification (Wang et al., 2020a; Wang et al., 2021). Extending
786 such thorough investigation also to other systems (i.e., hemolymph-feeders, koinobionts), also in a
787 comparative context, will certainly enrich our understanding of host manipulation. There is further
788 much to learn from parasitoid host manipulation strategies, even for our own benefit. For example,
789 some venom components can be used in biological control of insect pests (Danneels et al., 2010;
790 Moreau and Asgari, 2015). Virulence factors associated with teratocytes have also been proposed
791 for use in transgenic plants able to resist pest attack (Merlin et al., 2021). Parasitoids can thus
792 inspire the development of new technologies, perhaps even beyond insect pest control. For
793 example, parasitoid venom components were suggested as potential pharmaceuticals against
794 allergies, blood clotting, and as an antibiotic against microbial infections (Moreau and Asgari,
795 2015).

796

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802

803

804 **Tables**

805 **Table 1. Overview of studies looking at the effect of parasitism on host lipid levels (mainly triglycerides) in the whole body, fat body and/or**
806 **hemolymph.** A distinction is made between the effects of parasitism in general, the venom (with or without the egg, i.e., envenomation), polydnviruses
807 (with or without the egg, i.e., pseudoparasitization or injection), and teratocytes (with or without the egg, i.e., injection).

Parasitoid species	Parasitoid family	G/S	I/K	Gen/Sp	Ecto/Endo	Host stage attacked	H/T	Host species	Host order	Host Treatment	Host whole body	Host fat body	Host hemolymph	References
PARASITISM IN GENERAL														
<i>Apanteles galleriae</i>	Braconidae	S	K	Gen	Endo	L	T	<i>Achoria grisella</i>	Lepidoptera	Par	Sim	-	-	Nurullahoğlu et al., 2004
<i>Cotesia congregata</i>	Braconidae	G	K	Sp	Endo	L	H	<i>Manduca sexta</i>	Lepidoptera	Par	Low	-	-	Thompson and Redak, 2008
<i>Cotesia flavipes</i>	Braconidae	G	K	Sp	Endo	L	H	<i>Diatraea saccharalis</i>	Lepidoptera	Par	-	Sim	Low	Salvador and Cónsoli, 2008
								<i>Diatraea flavipennella</i>	Lepidoptera	Par	-	Sim	Low	dos Passos et al., 2019
<i>Glyptapanteles liparidis</i>	Braconidae	G	K	Sp	Endo	L	H	<i>Lymantria dispar</i>	Lepidoptera	Par	Low	-	Sim	Bischof and Ortel, 1996
<i>Cardiochiles nigriceps</i>	Braconidae	S	K	Sp	Endo	L	H	<i>Heliothis virescens</i>	Lepidoptera	Par	Sim	-	Sim	Barras et al., 1970
<i>Trichomalopsis apantelocтена</i>	Pteromalidae	S	I	Gen	Ecto	P	T	<i>Cotesia kariyai</i>	Hymenoptera	Par	Low	-	-	Nakamatsu and Tanaka, 2004
<i>Trichopsidea oestracea</i>	Nemestridae	S	K	Sp	Endo	N	T	<i>Chortoicetes terminifera</i>	Orthoptera	Par	Hig	-	-	Horwood and Hales, 1991
VENOM														
<i>Bracon nigricans</i>	Braconidae	G	I	Gen	Ecto	L	T	<i>Spodoptera littoralis</i>	Lepidoptera	Env	-	Low	Low	Becchimanzi et al., 2020, 2017
<i>Habrobracon brevicornis</i>	Braconidae	G	I	Gen	Ecto	L	T	<i>Galleria mellonella</i>	Lepidoptera	Env	-	Low	Hig	Kryukova et al., 2021
<i>Lysiphlebia japonica</i>	Braconidae	S	K	Gen	Endo	A	T	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Hemiptera	Par	Hig	-	-	Xueke et al., 2017
<i>Euplectrus separatae</i>	Eulophidae	G	K	Sp	Ecto	L	T	<i>Mythimna separata</i>	Lepidoptera	Par	-	Low	Hig	Nakamatsu and Tanaka, 2003
								<i>Mythimna separata</i>	Lepidoptera	Env	-	Low	Hig	Nakamatsu and Tanaka, 2004, 2003
<i>Nasonia vitripennis</i>	Pteromalidae	G	I	Gen	Ecto	P	T	<i>Sarcophaga bullata</i>	Diptera	Env	Hig	Hig	Hig	Rivers and Denlinger, 1995, 1994
								<i>Sarcophaga bullata</i>	Diptera	Env	-	-	Hig	Rivers et al., 1998
								<i>Sarcophaga bullata</i>	Diptera	Par	-	Hig	-	Rivers and Denlinger, 1995

								<i>Sarcophaga bullata</i>	Diptera	Env	-	Hig	-	Rivers and Denlinger, 1995
								<i>Sarcodexia sternodontus</i>	Diptera	Env	-	Low	Low	Rivers and Denlinger, 1995
								<i>Phormia regina</i>	Diptera	Env	-	Low	Hig	Rivers and Denlinger, 1995
								<i>Musca domestica</i>	Diptera	Env	-	Sim	Hig	Rivers and Denlinger, 1995
								<i>Sarcophaga bullata</i>	Diptera	Par	-	Hig	Hig	Rivers and Yoder, 1996
<i>Trichomalopsis apanteloctena</i>	Pteromalidae	S	I	Gen	Ecto	P	T	<i>Cotesia kariyai</i>	Hymenoptera	Env	Sim	-	-	Nakamatsu and Tanaka, 2004
<i>Muscidifurax zaraptor</i>	Pteromalidae	S	I	Gen	Ecto	P	T	<i>Sarcophaga bullata</i>	Diptera	Env	-	-	Hig	Rivers et al., 1998
<i>Trichomalopsis near americana</i>	Pteromalidae	G	I		Ecto	P	T	<i>Sarcophaga bullata</i>	Diptera	Env	-	Low	Hig	Rivers et al., 1998
<i>Pteromalus puparum</i>	Pteromalidae	G	I	Gen	Endo	P	T	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Lepidoptera	Par	-	Hig	Hig	Wang et al., 2020a
<i>Scleroderma sichuanensis</i>	Bethylidae	G	I	Gen	Ecto	P	T	<i>Tenebrio molitor</i>	Coleoptera	Par	-	Low	Low	Zhuo et al., 2016
										Env	-	Sim	Low	Zhuo et al., 2016

TERATOCYTES

<i>Meteorus pulchricornis</i>	Braconidae	S	K	Gen	Endo	L	T	<i>Mythimna separata</i>	Lepidoptera	Par	-	Low	-	Suzuki and Tanaka, 2007
<i>Cotesia kariyai</i>	Braconidae	G	K	Sp	Endo	L	H	<i>Mythimna separata</i>	Lepidoptera	Par	-	Low	-	Nakamatsu et al., 2002
<i>Microplitis croceipes</i>	Braconidae	S	K	Sp	Endo	L	H	<i>Heliothis virescens</i>	Lepidoptera	Par	-	Low	-	Zhang et al., 1997
										Inj	-	Low	-	Zhang et al., 1997
<i>Dinocampus coccinellae</i>	Braconidae	S	K	Gen	Endo	L/A	T	<i>Hippodamia convergens</i>	Coleoptera	Par	-	Low	-	Sluss, 1968
<i>Dinocampus coccinellae</i>	Braconidae	S	K	Gen	Endo	L/A	T	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	Coleoptera	Par	-	Low	-	Gopalapillai et al., 2005

POLYDNAVIRUS

<i>Microplitis demolitor</i>	Braconidae	S	K	Gen	Endo	L	H	<i>Chrysodeixis includens</i>	Lepidoptera	Inj	Low	-	-	Pruijssers et al., 2009
<i>Cotesia vestalis</i>	Braconidae	S	K	Sp	Endo	L	H	<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	Lepidoptera	Par	Low	Low	-	Wang et al., 2021
<i>Chelonus inanitus</i>	Braconidae	S	K	Gen	Endo	E/L	H	<i>Spodoptera littoralis</i>	Lepidoptera	Par	Hig	-	-	Kaeslin et al., 2005
										Ps	Hig	-	-	Kaeslin et al., 2005

G, Gregarious; S, solitary; I, Idiobiont; K, Koinobiont; Gen, Generalist; Sp, Specialist; Ecto, Ectoparasitoid; Endo, Endoparasitoid; A, Adult; E, Egg; L, Larva; N, Nymph; P, Pupa; H, Hemolymph-feeder; T, Tissue-feeder; Env, Envenomation; Inj, Injection; Par, Parasitization; Ps, Pseudoparasitization. Hig, Higher; Low, Lower, Sim, Similar. NB: *Trichomalopsis apanteloctena* is a hyperparasitoid.

809 **Table 2. Overview of genes and/or enzymes involved in lipid metabolism found in the venom of different parasitoid species.** We did not
810 distinguish between different homologs or orthologs. For each enzyme, a potential function is indicated based on functional studies in animals, including
811 humans.
812

Enzyme	Function	Species		
<i>Lipid catabolism</i>				
Carboxylesterase	Degradation of triglycerides, mainly long-chain triglyceride (Deng et al., 2021)	<i>Anisopteromalus calandrae</i> ¹ <i>Bracon nigricans</i> ³ <i>Hyposoter didymator</i> ⁸	<i>Microplitis mediator</i> ¹² <i>Ooencyrtus telenomicida</i> ¹⁵ <i>Psytalia lounsburyi</i> ¹⁸	<i>Torymus sinensis</i> ²³
Cathepsin (D, L, J)	Digestive enzymes (e.g. degradation of the fat body) (Becchimanzi et al., 2020; Cristofolletti et al., 2003; Yang et al., 2020)	<i>B. nigricans</i> ³ <i>Leptopilina heterotoma</i> ¹⁰ <i>Microctonus aethiopoies</i> ¹¹	<i>Microctonus hyperodae</i> ¹¹ <i>M. mediator</i> ¹² <i>O. telenomicida</i> ¹⁵	<i>Toxoneuron nigriceps</i> ²⁴ <i>T. sinensis</i> ²³
Enolase	Mediates host tissue degradation (Falabella et al., 2009; Grossi et al., 2016)	<i>M. mediator</i> ¹² <i>O. telenomicida</i> ¹⁵	<i>Psytalia concolor</i> ¹⁸ <i>P. lounsburyi</i> ¹⁸	<i>Tetrastichus brontispae</i> ²² <i>T. nigriceps</i> ²⁴
Enoyl-coA hydratase	Metabolizing fatty acids in beta oxidation to produce both acetyl CoA and ATP	<i>B. nigricans</i> ³	<i>O. telenomicida</i> ¹⁵	
Fatty Acid Binding Protein	Fatty acid import, storage and export (also cholesterol and phospholipids) (Furuhashi and Hotamisligil, 2008)	<i>Diversinervus elegans</i> ⁶	<i>M. mediator</i> ¹²	
Lipase (3, A, H)	Digestion, transport, processing of dietary lipids (Wang et al., 2020b)	<i>B. nigricans</i> ³ <i>Chelonus inanitus</i> ⁴ <i>Leptopilina boulandi</i> ⁹ <i>L. heterotoma</i> ¹⁰ <i>M. mediator</i> ¹²	<i>O. telenomicida</i> ¹⁵ <i>M. aethiopoies</i> ¹¹ <i>M. hyperodae</i> ¹¹ <i>Nasonia vitripennis</i> ¹³⁻¹⁴ <i>Pimpla hypochondriaca</i> ¹⁶	<i>Pteromalus puparum</i> ²¹ <i>P. lounsburyi</i> ¹⁸ <i>T. sinensis</i> ²³
Low-density lipoprotein receptor	Low-density lipoprotein, mediating endocytosis of vitellogenin and lipophorin	<i>Aphidius ervi</i> ² <i>M. mediator</i> ¹²	<i>N. vitripennis</i> ¹³⁻¹⁴ <i>O. telenomicida</i> ¹⁵	<i>P. puparum</i> ²¹ <i>T. sinensis</i> ²³
Low-density lipoprotein receptor-like venom protein	Central role in cholesterol and other lipoprotein metabolism (Scieuzo et al., 2021)	<i>A. calandrae</i> ¹	<i>N. vitripennis</i> ¹³⁻¹⁴	<i>O. telenomicida</i> ¹⁵
Phospholipase (A1, A2, B, C)	Hydrolyse phospholipid substrates at specific ester bonds (Richmond and Smith, 2011)	<i>B. nigricans</i> ³ <i>Cotesia chilonis</i> ⁵ <i>Eupelmus orientalis</i> ⁷	<i>L. heterotoma</i> ¹⁰ <i>M. mediator</i> ¹² <i>O. telenomicida</i> ¹⁵	<i>P. concolor</i> ¹⁸ <i>P. lounsburyi</i> ¹⁸ <i>T. nigriceps</i> ²⁴

		<i>D. elegans</i> ⁶	<i>Pimpla turionellae</i> ¹⁷	
Vitellogenin receptor	Low density lipoprotein receptor that transports lipids into a recipient cell	<i>M. aethioides</i> ¹¹	<i>O. telenomicida</i> ¹⁵	
<i>Lipid transport (in the hemolymph)</i>				
Annexin	Ca ²⁺ -dependent lipid binding protein that could be involved in membrane transport processes	<i>L. heterotoma</i> ¹⁰ <i>M. mediator</i> ¹²	<i>O. telenomicida</i> ¹⁵ <i>P. concolor</i> ¹⁸	
Apolipoporphin	Hemolymph lipid transport (Weers and Ryan, 2006)	<i>B. nigricans</i> ³ <i>D. elegans</i> ⁶ <i>L. heterotoma</i> ⁹	<i>O. telenomicida</i> ¹⁵ <i>M. mediator</i> ¹² <i>T. brontispae</i> ²²	<i>T. sinensis</i> ²³
Apolipoprotein D-like	Lipid transport processes in the insect hemolymph (Scieuzo et al., 2021)	<i>M. mediator</i> ¹²	<i>O. telenomicida</i> ¹⁵	<i>T. sinensis</i> ²³
Calreticulin	Chaperoning and regulation of Ca ²⁺ homeostasis in the endoplasmic reticulum lumen	<i>A. calandrae</i> ¹ <i>C. chilonis</i> ⁵ <i>H. didymator</i> ⁸ <i>M. hyperodae</i> ¹¹ <i>M. aethioides</i> ¹¹	<i>M. mediator</i> ¹² <i>N. vitripennis</i> ¹³⁻¹⁴ <i>O. telenomicida</i> ¹⁵ <i>P. puparum</i> ^{19,21} <i>P. concolor</i> ¹⁸	<i>P. lounsburyi</i> ¹⁸ <i>T. brontispae</i> ²² <i>T. sinensis</i> ²³ <i>T. nigriceps</i> ²⁴
Odorant binding protein	Solubilizing and carrying free fatty acids released by lipases (Ishida et al., 2013; Pelosi et al., 2018)	<i>A. calandrae</i> ¹ <i>B. nigricans</i> ³ <i>C. inanitus</i> ⁴ <i>L. heterotoma</i> ¹⁰	<i>M. mediator</i> ¹² <i>N. vitripennis</i> ¹³⁻¹⁴ <i>O. telenomicida</i> ¹⁵ <i>P. puparum</i> ²⁰⁻²¹	<i>T. brontispae</i> ²² <i>T. sinensis</i> ²³
<i>Lipid synthesis</i>				
3-oxoacyl-ACP reductase	Fatty acid synthesis and polyunsaturated fatty acid synthesis	<i>B. nigricans</i> ³		
Fatty acid synthase	Catalyzing the <i>de novo</i> synthesis of fatty acids	<i>A. ervi</i> ² <i>D. elegans</i> ⁶	<i>M. mediator</i> ¹² <i>O. telenomicida</i> ¹⁵	<i>T. brontispae</i> ²²
n-acetyllactosaminide beta-n-acetylglucosaminyltransferase	Glycosphingolipid synthesis	<i>L. heterotoma</i> ¹⁰	<i>O. telenomicida</i> ¹⁵	<i>T. nigriceps</i> ²⁴
Phosphatidate phosphatase	Conversion of phosphatidate to diglyceride	<i>D. elegans</i> ⁶	<i>O. telenomicida</i> ¹⁵	<i>T. brontispae</i> ²²
<i>Lipid storage</i>				

Adipocyte plasma membrane-associated protein-like	Maturation of adipocytes and their capacity to store lipids (Sarjeant and Stephens, 2012)	<i>O. telenomicida</i> ¹⁵	<i>T. sinensis</i> ²³
Insulin-like growth factor-binding protein	Regulation of lipid metabolism, lipid accumulation, adipocyte differentiation (Kim and Lee, 2014; Pan et al., 2021)	<i>L. heterotoma</i> ¹⁰ <i>M. mediator</i> ¹²	<i>O. telenomicida</i> ¹⁵ <i>T. sinensis</i> ²³
Regucalcin	Ca ²⁺ signaling, lipid accumulation in adipocytes (Doğan et al., 2021)	<i>B. nigricans</i> ³	<i>M. mediator</i> ¹² <i>O. telenomicida</i> ¹⁵

¹Perkin et al., 2015; ²Colinet et al., 2014; ³Becchimanzi et al., 2020; ⁴Vincent et al., 2010; ⁵Teng et al., 2017; ⁶Liu et al., 2017; ⁷Doury et al., 1997; ⁸Dorémus et al., 2013; ⁹Colinet et al., 2013; ¹⁰Heavner et al., 2013; ¹¹Crawford et al., 2008 ¹²Lin et al., 2019; ¹³de Graaf et al., 2010; ¹⁴Sim and Wheeler, 2016; ¹⁵Cusumano et al., 2018; ¹⁶Dani et al., 2005; ¹⁷Uçkan et al., 2006; ¹⁸Mathé-Hubert et al., 2016; ¹⁹Zhu et al., 2010; ²⁰Wang et al., 2015; ²¹Yan et al., 2016 ²²Liu et al., 2018; ²³Scieuzo et al., 2021; ²⁴Laurino et al., 2016

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