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How terpene content affects fuel flammability of wildland-urban interface vegetation Bastien Romero⁽¹⁾, Catherine Fernandez⁽²⁾, Caroline Lecareux⁽²⁾, Elena Ormeño ⁽²⁾, Anne Ganteaume*(1) (1) Irstea, Recover-EMR, Aix-en-Provence, France (2) Aix Marseille Université, Institut Méditerranéen de Biodiversité et d'Ecologie, (UMR 7263 CNRS- IRD- Université d'Avignon et des pays de Vaucluse), Marseille, France * Corresponding author : Anne Ganteaume Address : Irstea Aix-en-Provence, Recover-EMR, 3275 route de Cézanne, 13182 Aix-en-Provence cedex 5, France. E-mail: anne.ganteaume@irstea.fr Running head title: Role of terpenes on flammability

Abstract

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Among plant characteristics promoting flammability, terpenes have received far less attention, 20 especially regarding the vegetation surrounding housing. Here, mono-, sesqui-, and diterpenes 21 were screened in live and dead leaves of ornamental species found in Wildland-Urban Interfaces 22 (WUI) of southeastern France. Terpene content and composition were compared among species 23 and between fuel types. Their influence on flammability was assessed through several variables 24 and compared to that of leaf thickness and moisture content. Six of the 17 species examined 25 contained terpenes. Terpene diversity and content differed among species but not between fuel 26 types. Mono-, sesqui-, and diterpenes (especially the highly concentrated compounds) were 27 28 involved to varying degrees in both leaf and litter flammability. Their effects could be the opposite according to the flammability variable and the fuel type considered. Leaf sesquiterpene content 29 and litter total terpene content had the strongest influence on maximum temperature; the former 30 also mainly drove leaf flaming duration. The other flammability variables were more strongly 31 associated with either moisture content or leaf thickness. Our findings underlined the idea that fire 32 management in WUI must also acknowledge the potential for ornamental species containing 33 terpenes, such as *P. halepensis*, in affecting fire behavior. 34

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- Key Words Pinus halepensis; Fire prevention; Leaf traits; Fire-prone species; Ornamental
- 38 vegetation; Volatile Organic Compounds

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- Short summary We compared terpene content and composition in leaves of species found in
- Wildland-Urban Interfaces of southeastern France and evaluated their influence on flammability.
- Terpene content had the strongest influence on maximum temperature and flaming duration. Other

flammability variables were more strongly associated with either moisture content or leaf thickness.

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Introduction

Mediterranean regions are characterized by climatic conditions conducive to fire and these areas 48 are often composed of highly flammable species. In some of these high fire risk areas, the human 49 population has considerably increased wildfire frequency (Syphard et al. 2007; Ganteaume and 50 Jappiot 2013), including wildland-urban interfaces (WUI) in southeastern France (Ganteaume and 51 Long-Fournel 2015). 52 Plant species found in WUI (hereafter referred as "ornamental species" or "ornamental 53 54 vegetation"), either native or exotic species, are important fuels during wildfires. Indeed, they can allow fire propagation from wildland vegetation to structures, possibly damaging or destroying 55 buildings as highlighted during the destructive wildfires in 2016 in southeastern France 56 (Ganteaume 2018a). Consequently, to better understand the role of the ornamental vegetation as a 57 58 vector for the fire propagation (either due to massive firebrand showers or to the radiant heat emitted by the flame front), previous studies focused on the assessment of this vegetation's 59 flammability (Ganteaume et al. 2013a, 2013b; Ganteaume 2018b). These works targeted both live 60 leaf particles and dead surface fuels but did not consider the effect of volatile or non-volatile 61 organic compounds on the flammability of these fuels. 62 Plant flammability has been widely studied and experimentally assessed under laboratory 63 conditions as well as in situ during prescribed fires, for instance. Laboratory methods focus on 64 deriving the metrics of flammability, such as the three major dimensions (i.e. ignitability, heat 65 release and fire spread rate) recently highlighted in Pausas et al (2017), typically via the 66 measurement of individual species fuels (leaf, litter bed, etc.). For a given fuel scale, these 67 flammability dimensions are not necessarily correlated (Engber & Varner 2012; Magalhães & 68

Schwilk 2012; Pausas & Moreira 2012; Cornwell et al. 2015) and each of them has relevance 69 70 across fuel scales (Pausas & Moreira 2012). Previous works showed that these axes of flammability were primarily controlled by different plant traits (Scarff & Westoby 2006; Engber 71 at al. 2012; Schwilk & Caprio 2011; Clarke et al. 2014), also called drivers of flammability. Some 72 leaf traits continue to affect fuel bed flammability, scaling up from leaf to fuel bed (Varner et al. 73 2015). Among these characteristics, thickness was one of the main drivers of leaf ignitability 74 (Murray et al. 2013; Grootemaat et al. 2015; Ganteaume 2018b) and can sometimes override the 75 effects of other essential divers of leaf flammability (e.g., specific leaf area, surface area-to-volume 76 ratio, or fuel moisture content as highlighted in several works, e.g., White and Zipperer 2010; 77 78 Marino et al. 2011; Madrigal et al. 2013; Murray et al. 2013; Santoni et al. 2014; Grootemaat et al. 2015), as found in Ganteaume (2018b). 79 Along with fuel moisture content (FMC), terpenes are among the chemical compounds 80 81 associated with flammability (Dimitrakopoulos 2001; Alessio et al. 2008a, 2008b). Indeed, some terpenes are volatile organic compounds naturally very flammable (Barboni et al. 2011) because 82 of their high heating value, relatively low flash point, and low flammability limit (See, for instance, 83 Sigma-Aldrich Data Sheets at https://www.sigmaaldrich.com/united-kingdom/technical-84 services/datasheets.html). Terpenes can be stored in the plant or directly emitted once synthesized, 85 86 depending on their molecular weight. Their production and storage in the leaf require adapted structures such as resin ducts or trichomes (Martin et al. 2002), the location of these structures in 87 the leaf depending on the species. These compounds are also involved in several ecological roles; 88 for instance, coping with abiotic stresses (Paré and Tumlison 1999) such as water deficit (Peñuelas 89 and Llusià 2003), or deterring herbivory as signal molecules in the communication between plants 90 (Dicke et al. 2003) or between insects and plants (Pichersky and Gershenson 2002). Because of 91 their chemical characteristics (such as low flash point), terpenes can also affect plant flammability. 92 Even though, previous works linking terpene content and flammability are scarce as compared to 93

those dealing with the impact of FMC or of other leaf traits. Most of these works investigated terpenes in live fuel, but only a few targeted both live and dead fuels such as Ormeño et al. (2009) and Della Rocca et al. (2017) for instance. Moreover, the previous works predominantly took into account either the total amount of terpenes without distinguishing subgroups (De Lillis et al. 2009) or focused on their most abundant fraction, the monoterpenes (White et al. 1994; Alessio et al. 2008a, 2008b), sometimes supplemented by the sesquiterpenes (Owens et al. 1998; Ormeño et al. 2009; Pausas et al. 2016; Della Rocca et al. 2017). Often, results as to these relationships were not conclusive or were contradictory (De Lillis et al. 2009; Alessio et al. 2008b). For instance, monoterpenes were found to enhance flammability in White et al. (1994) as well as in Owens et al. (1998) while sesquiterpenes positively affected flammability in Pausas et al. (2016) and in Della Rocca et al. (2017). These differences could sometimes be due to different species or terpene subgroups studied but not in every case (e.g., Alessio et al. 2008b and Della Rocca et al. 2017). Furthermore, excluding the works of Ormeño et al. (2009) or Della Rocca et al. (2017), flammability was mostly assessed through only one variable (such as time-to-ignition in Pausas et al. 2016), therefore lacking results on other flammability components. The positive impact of terpenes on plant flammability could be an issue in Mediterranean areas where summer drought induces a water stress that forces some species to increase their terpene production, and possibly their storage amount (Llusià and Peñuelas 1998; Ormeño et al. 2007; Genard-Zielinski et al. 2014) if they are able to store compounds, thereby making them potentially more flammable. Moreover, as large amounts of these compounds can be emitted in response to high temperatures (Centritto et al. 2011), episodes of massive terpene emission can result from wildfire events. As far as we know, except for Pinus halepensis and Cupressus sempervirens, no previous

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studies have described in depth the live leaf and litter terpene content of ornamental species, especially neglecting to take into account different terpene subgroups (e.g., the volatile monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes, as well as the non-volatile diterpenes) and their influence on

different flammability components. Filling these gaps would provide a better understanding of the live leaf and litter flammability processes regarding these chemical compounds. This is particularly important as terpene content might increase in response to the predicted warmer climatic conditions (Kleist et al. 2012), particularly as WUI species could be responsible for severe damage to buildings during a fire.

To tackle these goals, we i) screened for terpenes in the live and dead leaves of a wide range of common WUI species, characterizing the composition and concentration of terpenes, ii) determined if they differed between both fuel types within and among species, iii) examined the role of total terpene content and their constituent subgroups (e.g., monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes, diterpenes) on the flammability of these fuels, testing the hypothesis that terpenes would increase species' flammability, and iv) determined the relative importance of physical and chemical factors on flammability. Ultimately, focusing on a test species, we checked if these metrics varied between two different stages of plant maturity. This work, besides providing a better knowledge on the impact of terpenes on plant flammability, will also allow the identification of WUI species that could be deleterious during a fire regarding their specific terpene content.

Material and Methods

Study Species and Sampling

The species studied in the current work are common in the French Mediterranean WUI. They can be involved in the fire propagation from the wildland vegetation to the nearby buildings, especially regarding species used in ornamental hedges that provide strong horizontal fuel continuity. In total, seventeen of the most common ornamental species were studied (Suppl. Mat. 1) which, except for *P. halepensis* and *Cotinus coggygria*, have already been taken into account in the work of Ganteaume (2018b) in which these species' flammability was characterized. However, for most species,

screening for terpenes in live and dead fuels had never been attempted. These ornamental species are composed of both native (e.g., *Viburnum tinus*, *P. halepensis*, or *Cotinus coggygria*) and exotic species (such as *Thuja occidentalis*). During a fire, some of them (e.g., *P. halepensis*, *Cupressus sempervirens*) can also cause damage and ignite buildings, as often witnessed by firefighters.

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In order to highlight a possible variation in flammability according to plant maturity (that could be possibly linked to a variation in terpene content), one of the species studied, *Cupressocyparis leylandii*, was sampled in hedges differing in maturity (a young stage and an older stage corresponding to a mature plant). This species is commonly used in hedges at both stages.

For each species, two fuel types were targeted, live leaves (mentioned hereafter as "leaf" or "leaves") and dead leaves collected on the floor underneath the plants (mentioned hereafter as "litter"). The sampling was carried out in summer (July 2016) when the climate conditions were the most severe in southeastern France. Litter samples of C. coggygria could not be collected because of the rapid decomposition of the leaves preventing sufficient litter accumulation. Regarding dead fuel, we focused on dead individual leaves and not on the whole fuel bed (as done in previous works, e.g., Ganteaume et al. 2013a, 2018b). The physical arrangement of leaves in the litter bed (i.e. packing ratio) and the resulting air-to-fuel ratio has been shown to dominate the fuel bed flammability (Grootemaat et al. 2017), adding a supplementary parameter that could mask the effect of terpenes on flammability. For each species and each fuel type, a maximum of 25 g of mature live leaves and of intact dead leaves were collected on or underneath (for litter only) five different individuals, located at least 4 m apart. Per individual, 6 g were used for the burning experiments, 5 g for FMC measurements, and 1 g for the terpene analysis. Sampling was conducted at least 48 h following a precipitation event to avoid any impact of the recent rain on FMC. Litter samples were air-dried for 48 h, time necessary for the stabilization of their weight; oven-drying was avoided as this process could involve the degradation of terpenes. As soon as their weight stabilized, the litter samples were burned. The live leaves sampled were placed in plastic bags and

stored in a cool box for transportation to the laboratory, minimizing changes in water content; the samples were burned directly upon returning to the laboratory.

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Terpene content

- For the terpene analysis, leaf and litter samples were stored at -80°C in order to stop leaf metabolism.
- For both fuel types, terpene content was analyzed for each species using 500 mg of fuel collected
- from five different individuals and ground for extraction purposes using liquid nitrogen and put into
- a 4 mL of extraction solution (cyclohexane and dodecane). This vial was agitated for 30 min, filtered
- $(PTFE 0.22 \mu m filter)$, and put into a 3 mL-vial for analysis. Dodecane was used as an internal
- standard and was not naturally present in the samples.
- This analysis was conducted using gas chromatography (GC-MS System 7890B Agilent
- Technologies®). One microlitre was injected into a 30m x 0.25 mm x 0.25 µm thickness capillary
- column (HP-5MS Agilent J&W GC Columns), at a constant flow (1 mL min⁻¹) and in the splitless
- mode. The injection temperature was maintained at 250°C with Helium (99.99%) as the carrier gas.
- The initial temperature was 40°C and increased at 3°C min⁻¹ up to 300°C during analysis. A 5 min-
- solvent delay was respected and the total run time was 90 min.
- The identification of terpenes was made using the molecule retention time (RT) as well as their
- mass spectrum which was compared to libraries in Adams (2007) and NIST (2011). To complete
- this identification, retention indexes (RI) were calculated for each molecule identified and compared
- to the libraries. We established these experimental RI from alkanes injected at each session:

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$$RI_{(mol)} = 100 \times X(\alpha) + \frac{RT(mol) - RT(\alpha)}{RT(\beta) - RT(\alpha)} \times 100$$

- where α = alkane before the molecule, β = alkane after the molecule, X = Carbon number, and RT
- 191 = retention time.
- To calculate the terpene content, several dilutions of many authentic reference compounds
- 193 (Aldrich, Darmstadt, Germany and Firmenich, Geneva, Switzerland) were carried out in order to

establish the response factor of the terpene subgroup as compared to the internal standard (dodecane). Then, the integrated area of each peak was multiplied by the appropriate response factor and divided by the sample volume. The sample dry mass was previously calculated to obtain the mass of terpene compound per dry mass unit. In the current work, we focused on the content of mono-, sesqui-, and diterpenes as well as on the total terpene content.

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Flammability Experiments

Flammability experiments were carried out only on species containing terpenes in order to highlight the link between flammability and terpene content. Fuel samples were burned using a 500W epiradiator composed of a 10 cm radiant disk. A pilot flame was placed 4 cm above the epiradiator surface; this flame did not take part in the sample combustion but allowed a better ignition of the gases emitted by the plant before combustion (Hernando-Lara 2000). A thermocouple (chromelalumel, k type, 30 µm diameter) was positioned 1 cm above the disk center to measure the temperature emitted by the radiant disk at a precise point (300 \pm 30°C that will trigger the leaf burning), then the temperature emitted by the flame when the sample burned. This thermocouple was linked to a data logger (ALEMO 2590 Ahlborn, Ahlborn Mess- und Regelungstechnik GmbH Holzkirchen, Germany) to record the variation of temperature (one record per second) during the burning. The burning device was turned on thirty minutes before the first burning test to be sure the epiradiator temperature was stabilized. For each species, 30 one g-samples were burned; larger fuel masses increased the possibility that other fuel properties, such as fuel height, would cause differences in flammability (Ormeño et al. 2009). Thus, samples had to be as well distributed as possible on the radiant disk. As soon as the fuel was in contact with the epiradiator surface, time and temperature recordings were started. Five flammability variables were measured: i) time-to-ignition (TTI, s), defined as the time necessary for

the fuel to ignite once laid on the radiant disk; ii) ignition temperature (T_{TTI}, °C), defined as the

temperature recorded when the flame appeared; iii) ignition frequency (IF, %), calculated as the ratio between successful ignitions and the total number of samples (n=30); iv) flaming duration (FD, s), time elapsed between the flame occurrence and its extinction; and v) maximum temperature emitted during burning (T_{MAX} , °C). Live leaves were burned first to prevent chemical compound degradation and moisture content variation before the burning.

Just before the burning experiments, subsamples of litter and leaves of each individual were ovendried for 48 h at 60°C in order to measure their moisture content at the time of burning. FMC was calculated according to the following equation:

227 FMC =
$$\frac{Mf(g) - Md(g)}{Md(g)} \times 100$$

228 where Mf represents the fresh fuel mass and Md represents the dry fuel mass.

Among the physical characteristics correlated with the leaf flammability of these species, leaf thickness was one of the most significant parameters because of the importance of this particle geometry in determining leaf combustion (Ganteaume 2018b). This parameter was chosen, along with FMC (also known to greatly influence flammability; Ganteaume et al. 2009) to be compared to terpene content as drivers of flammability. Immediately before burning, leaf thickness (Thi, cm) was measured at the middle of the leaf (excluding the midrib), using a 10^{-4} m accuracy micrometer. A preliminary test showed that thickness did not significantly vary between live and dead leaves (t = 0.577413; p = 0.565), so only live leaf thickness was used in the analyses.

Data Analysis

The statistical analyses were performed on each fuel dataset taking into account the content of the three terpene subgroups as well as the total terpene content (combining the three subgroups), FMC, and thickness as explanatory factors. The different flammability variables (using a single mean value per individuals of each species) were used as dependent variables.

To compare species and stage of maturity on terpene content and flammability, we used one-way ANOVA. Regarding the stage of maturity, the Kruskal-Wallis test was performed instead of the Fisher test because of the lower amount of data. Comparisons between both litter and leaf flammability and terpene content were performed using t-test. The normality of residual distribution was checked by the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test and data were log-transformed if needed. The post-hoc LSD test was used to check for significant differences between the different means ($p \le 0.05$).

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We used simple linear regression analyses to highlight (i) if flammability was more sensitive to the total terpene content or to terpene subgroups, and (ii) the significant correlations existing between flammability variables and fuel characteristics. When FMC and/or thickness explained a significant proportion of the variability of a given flammability variable, we used the residuals of the regression as a moisture/thickness-corrected measure of this variable. This corrected variable was then regressed against the terpene content in order to highlight the effect of terpenes without the bias of the above-mentioned factors (see Pausas et al. 2016). Partial least squares (PLS) regression analysis was performed to determine the relative importance of the physical and chemical fuel characteristics on each flammability variable. The significance of components for the models was determined by uncertainty tests carried out within a full cross-validation. Then, a bootstrap procedure (boot size=1000) was performed on the set of variables that presented the highest regression coefficients to rebuild the model, followed by a backwards elimination process until all explanatory variables were significant with p-values ≤ 0.05 . In order to take into account the flammability variables and fuel characteristics in a same analysis and to pinpoint the driving species of the relationships possibly highlighted, co-inertia analysis (Dolédec and Chessel 1994) was performed on both fuel datasets. The complete matrix of data was transferred to the statistical program under R 2.5.1 (R Development Core Team, 2005), then standardized and analysed using the ADE-4 package (Thioulouse et al. 1997). The statistical significance of each effect or

combination of effects was tested using a Monte-Carlo permutation test with 1000 permutations using the R 'coin' package.

All tests, except the bootstrap procedure (part of the PLS regression analyses) and co-inertia analyses, were performed using StatGraphics Centurion XVII – X64 software (StatPoint Technologies, Inc®).

The screening for terpenes in the different species studied revealed that only six species among the

Results

Terpene Diversity and Content

seventeen studied contained terpenes, mostly conifers: *P. halepensis*, *C. sempervirens*, *T. occidentalis*, *C. arizonica*, *C. leylandii* (in both stages of maturity), and *C. coggygria* (Suppl. Mat. 2). We identified 54 different compounds in the leaves and litter of these species. The subgroup of sesquiterpenes was the most diverse (24 compounds, mostly in *C. leylandii* and *C. arizonica*), compared to that of diterpenes (19 compounds, mainly found in *C. leylandii* and in *C. sempervirens*) and monoterpenes (11 compounds, mostly in *C. leylandii*). *C. leylandii* presented the highest terpene diversity with more than 30 different compounds. *C. coggygria*'s leaves contained only one compound, limonene (monoterpene).

Regarding the terpene content, monoterpenes presented the highest number of compounds with content higher than 0.1 mg g⁻¹ dry matter (mentioned hereafter as "main compounds"), regardless of species and fuel type (Suppl. Mat. 3 and 4). However, the highest values were obtained for caryophyllene (sesquiterpene) in *P. halepensis'* leaves and litter (0.905 and 0.866 mg g⁻¹, respectively) and for nezukol (diterpene) in those of *T. occidentalis* (0.870 and 0.940 mg g⁻¹, respectively). *C. sempervirens* and *C. arizonica* presented the lowest terpene content (<1.5 mg g⁻¹)

despite the high terpene diversity screened in these species (12 main compounds for both fuel types).

Regardless of the subgroup, terpene content differed among species (One way ANOVA: F=25.48 and p<0.0001 for monoterpenes; F=16.61 and p<0.0001 for sesquiterpenes; F=25.22 and p<0.0001 for diterpenes), the highest content being observed in the mature leaves of C. leylandii (mainly due to their high number of different compounds) and the lowest in C. coggygria (presenting only one compound) (Fig. 1). Regarding live leaves (Fig. 1a), C. leylandii and P. halepensis stored the largest amounts of monoterpenes (> 2.00 mg g⁻¹ and 1 mg g⁻¹, respectively). It is worth noting that the amount of monoterpenes in C. coggygria (corresponding to limonene only) was in the same range $(\leq 0.5 \text{ mg g}^{-1})$ as in C. arizonica and T. occidentalis which presented several compounds belonging to this subgroup. P. halepensis presented the highest sesquiterpene content despite the small number of compounds contained in this species' leaves (around 1 mg g⁻¹, mostly due to caryophyllene; Suppl. Mat. 3). C. leylandii and T. occidentalis presented the highest diterpene content (> 1 mg g⁻¹ on average, mostly due to the high number of compounds in the former species and to nezukol in the latter). Regarding litter (Fig. 1 b), the three terpene subgroups differed significantly among species (One way ANOVA: F=20.81 and p<0.0001 for monoterpenes; F=13.63 and p<0.0001 for sesquiterpenes; F=33.89 and p<0.0001 for diterpenes). For litter, the different terpene subgroups were dominant in the same species as for leaves (Suppl. Mat. 4).

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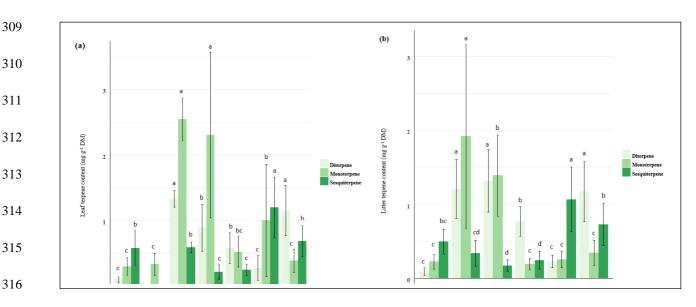


Figure 1: Comparison of the leaf (a) and litter (b) terpene content (means ± SD) between species according to the three terpene subgroups. Means were calculated from the total terpene content of each individual. For each terpene subgroup, different letters indicate significant differences between species (p<0.05). No litter was sampled for *Cotinus coggygria* (Ca: *Cupressus arizonica*, Cl_o and Cl_y: mature and young *Cupressocyparis leylandii*, Cc: *Cotinus coggygria*, Cs: *Cupressus sempervirens*, Ph: *Pinus halepensis*, To: *Thuya occidentalis*). Lowercase letters indicate significant differences between species for each terpene subgroup.

Comparing leaves and litter, we found that the total terpene content did not vary between fuel types (all species pooled). The trend was the same when each terpene subgroup was considered individually. Accordingly, regarding terpene diversity, species were characterized mostly by the same compounds in both fuel types (Suppl. Mat. 3 and 4). Among monoterpenes, alpha-pinene was one of the most abundant compounds in most species, regardless of the fuel type. The results were mixed for the content of sesqui- and diterpenes, the most concentrated compound varying according to species (sesquiterpene caryophyllene in *P. halepensis* and diterpene nezukol in *T. occidentalis*, for instance), for both leaves and litter.

Relationships Between Flammability and Fuel Characteristics

Flammability was assessed for the six species containing terpenes (Table 1). For both fuel types, all the flammability variables but leaf T_{TTI} (ranging between 319 and 376°C) and litter IF (100% for all species) significantly differed among species (p<0.0001). Litter flammability was significantly higher than that of leaves, except for T_{TTI} (TTI: t=12.33, p<0.0001; FD: t=-6.45, p<0.0001; T_{MAX} : t=-11.24, p<0.0001). *P. halepensis* had the highest leaf flammability (higher T_{MAX} and IF, longer FD as well as shorter TTI and lower T_{TTI} than the other species; Table 1); the results were mixed

regarding litter flammability, several species (e.g., *C. leylandii, P. halepensis*, or *C. sempervirens*) presenting characteristics of high flammability (e.g., short TTI, high T_{MAX} or IF, etc.).

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Checking for a possible effect of other fuel characteristics (FMC and thickness) than terpene content, we found that FMC significantly impacted leaf TTI (positive effect) and IF (negative effect) while, for both fuel types, leaf thickness was significantly correlated with TTI (positive effect) and FD (negative effect and strongest relationship: $R^2=0.75$) as well as with litter T_{TT} (positive effect). These flammability variables were thus moisture and/or thickness-corrected when correlated with terpene content (Simple linear regression analyses; Table 2). Results revealed that terpene content could have a different impact on flammability from one fuel type to the other. Indeed, sesquiterpene content was negatively related to leaf TTI and to litter FD but positively to leaf T_{MAX}. In the same manner, diterpene content was negatively related to leaf FD (as was total terpene content) but positively to litter FD and T_{MAX} (as was total terpene content regarding the latter variable). Leaf and litter T_{MAX} were only impacted by terpene content (leaf sesquiterpenes and litter mono- and diterpenes, as well as litter total terpene content), highlighting the strong influence of terpenes on this variable. Leaf ignition frequency was not impacted by terpene content and there was no significant relationship between leaf T_{TTI} and any of the fuel characteristics. It is worth noting that, for both fuel types, most flammability variables were impacted by the content of one or several subgroups of terpenes rather than by the total terpene content.

Determining the relative importance of the physical and chemical fuel characteristics on flammability (PLS regression analyses, Table 3), we found that leaf thickness and FMC strongly impacted leaf TTI (R^2 =0.73; positive effect) as well as FD (for the former), IF and T_{MAX} (for the latter) but sesquiterpene content was the main driver of T_{MAX} and FD (Table 3). Fuel characteristics were not significant drivers of leaf T_{TTI} , as previously highlighted in the simple linear regression analyses. When total terpene content was taken into account in the analyses instead of that of the

different subgroups, the results were not significant for T_{MAX} whereas the variability, explained in the analysis linking FD to thickness and terpene content, strongly increased (from R^2 =0.26 to 0.80), with a switch in the effect of the terpene content (negative for total terpene content instead of positive for sesquiterpene content). Regarding litter (Table 4), thickness was the only significant driver of litter TTI and T_{TTI} ; this fuel characteristic was also the most important driver of litter FD compared to the content of the three terpene subgroups. It is worth noting that, in this relationship, diterpene content negatively impacted litter FD contrary to the content of sesqui- and monoterpenes. Fuel characteristics did not impact litter T_{MAX} (monoterpene content and diterpene content ceased to be significant after the bootstrap procedure) but when total terpene content was used in the analysis, this factor positively impacted flammability. When total terpene content was taken into account, FMC did not affect litter flammability except FD, overriding total terpene content, along with thickness (Table 4).

Most relationships between flammability variables and fuel characteristics previously highlighted were confirmed performing co-inertia analyses on both fuels' datasets (Fig. 2). Regarding leaf flammability (Fig. 2a), the first two axes explained 90.5% of the variance (61.2% on axis 1). TTI and T_{TTI} (the latter however was not significant in the regression analyses) were opposed to FD on axis 1 (highest loading on this axis) and were mainly related to thickness (highest loading on this axis) and to mono- and diterpenes, at a lower extent (Suppl. Mat. 5). *C. arizonica* (presenting the thickest leaves) and *C. coggygria* (presenting the thinnest leaves) also displayed this opposition. T_{MAX} best characterized axis 2 and was positively related to sesquiterpene content and FMC (Suppl. Mat. 5) on the positive side of this axis, confirming the results obtained in the regression analyses. This axis was best characterized by *P. halepensis* which presented the lowest FMC.

Regarding litter flammability (Fig. 2b), the two first axes explained 91% of the variance (50% explained by axis 1). On the first axis, FD (and TTI as well as T_{TTI}, at a lower extent) was mainly

negatively related to thickness (highest loadings on this axis; Suppl. Mat. 6); C. arizonica and T. occidentalis best characterizing this axis. On the second axis, T_{MAX} was mainly positively related to mono- and diterpene content, C. leylandii (young stage) best characterizing these relationships. Litter IF was not taken into account in the analysis as this variable scored 100% for all species.

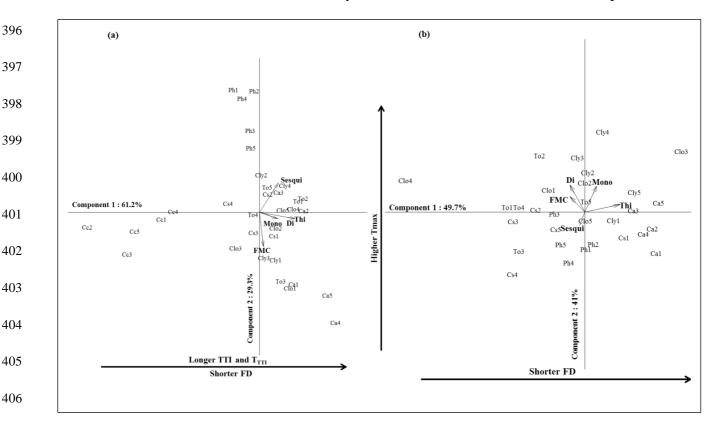


Figure 2: Biplots of co-inertia analysis illustrating relationships between leaf (a) and litter (b) flammability variables with fuel characteristics. In the litter dataset, IF was not taken into account, given it was 100% for all species and no litter was sampled for Cotinus coggygria (T_{MAX}: maximum temperature, FD: flaming duration, IF: ignition frequency, TTI: time to ignition, T_{TTI}: ignition temperature, Mono: monoterpene content, Sesqui: sesquiterpene content, Di: diterpene content, Thi: leaf thickness, FMC: fuel moisture content, Ca: Cupressus arizonica, Clo and Clv: mature and young Cupressocyparis leylandii, Cc: Cotinus coggygria, Cs: Cupressus sempervirens, Ph: Pinus halepensis, To: Thuya occidentalis).

Variations in Terpene content and Flammability according to Cupressocyparis leylandii's

Stage of Maturity

C. leylandii presented the highest terpene diversity with 31 to 34 different compounds in the young and mature stages, respectively. These two maturity stages stored the largest amounts of monoterpenes (2.3 and 2.54 mg g⁻¹, respectively) in their live leaves (Fig. 1a). Accordingly, this terpene subgroup was also the most abundant in litter of both mature and young plants, the content being higher in the mature stage (1.77 *vs* 1.30 mg g⁻¹) (Fig. 1b).

Regarding leaf flammability, only FD differed significantly between the two stages of maturity (KW=4.08, p=0.043), the mature plants presenting higher values (Tab. 2). Accordingly, FMC and the content of sesqui- and diterpenes were higher in this latter stage ($p \le 0.05$). When these parameters were used in the analysis, diterpene content and sesquiterpene content were the best drivers of leaf FD, this relationship explaining 65% of the variability. The stage of maturity did not impact litter flammability, regardless of the variable, even if FMC was lower in the mature plants contrary to sesquiterpene content (the only parameters significantly varying between litter of mature and young plants; $p\le 0.05$).

Discussion

Variation of terpenes according to species, fuel type, and stage of maturity

The screening for terpenes in the live and dead leaves of the 17 species studied revealed that only six contained terpenes, all but *C. coggygria* being conifers. These species have storage structures for such organic compounds, e.g., resin ducts for *C. leylandii*, *T. occidentalis*, *C. sempervirens*, *C. arizonica*, and *P. halepensis* (Yani et al. 1993; Ormeño et al. 2008), and trichomes were found on the leaf surface of *C. coggygria* (Ormeño, pers. obs.). Terpene content and composition differed according to species but the main compounds (e.g., alpha-pinene, limonene, caryophyllene) found

in the leaf and litter of the coniferous species we studied were consistent with compounds detected in previous studies (Gallis et al. 2007; Jitovetz et al. 2006; Chéraif et al. 2007). For *C. coggygria*, however, the monoterpene limonene was the only compound detected whereas Novakovic et al. (2007) also identified other monoterpenes (e.g., alpha-pinene and beta-pinene). Over all the terpenes screened, the sesquiterpene caryophyllene and diterpene nezukol were the most concentrated compounds (in *P. halepensis* and in *T. occidentalis*, respectively). The dominance of caryophyllene in *P. halepensis*' leaf has been highlighted in different areas of the Mediterranean Basin (Ioannou et al. 2014; Lahlou et al. 2003; Macchioni et al. 2003; Roussis et al. 1995; Tumen et al. 2010; Abi-Ayad et al. 2011).

Another important result of this work was that leaf and litter terpene content and diversity (total and by subgroup) did not differ within species nor between fuel types (54 compounds in both leaves and litter). Indeed, most terpenes are retained for long periods of time, e.g., in pine decomposed needles (Chomel et al. 2014); their polarity and chemical structure make them less degradable and/or leachable (White 1994; and the degradability decreases with the complexity of the molecule according to Kanerva et al. 2008). In both fuel types, the terpene content was higher in the mature stage of *C. leylandii* (regarding sesqui- and diterpenes), agreeing with the results of Peñuelas and Llusià (1997) on *Rosmarinus officinalis* and of Nowak et al. (2010).

Impact of terpenes on flammability

As expected, we found that litter was more flammable than live leaf (non-significant differences for ignition temperature) which was mostly due to lower FMC, as leaf thickness and terpene content did not differ from one fuel type to the other (regardless of the terpene subgroup). The total terpene content had only a limited effect on flammability (negative impact on leaf flaming duration but positive on litter maximum temperature) while this effect was more pronounced when the different subgroups were taken into account. Indeed, sesquiterpene content was one of the main

driver of leaf flammability, increasing maximum temperature and flaming duration (to a lower extent, sesquiterpenes were also negatively correlated to time-to-ignition), agreeing with Della Rocca et al. (2017), but decreasing litter flaming duration, along with monoterpene content, according to Ormeño et al. (2009). Monoterpenes primarily affected litter flaming duration but did not have a predominant impact on leaf flammability. In contrast, Pausas et al. (2016) showed that most compounds significantly related to *Rosmarinus officinalis*' flammability (only based on leaf time-to-ignition) were monoterpenes while several works highlighted a negative impact of these compounds on leaf flammability (Owen et al. 1998; Alessio et al. 2008b; Della Rocca et al. 2017). Diterpene content, usually not studied in literature, impacted litter flaming duration only, but positively contrary to sesqui- and monoterpene content.

The impact of terpenes on flammability was mostly due to the influence of the most abundant compound of a subgroup (such as sesquiterpene caryophyllene in *P. halepensis* or diterpene nezukol in *T. occidentalis*). Indeed, leaves of *P. halepensis* were the most flammable (especially regarding both maximum temperature and flaming duration). Despite other species with high litter flammability features, this pine species had already been found as one of the most flammable and containing a high content of terpenes (Ormeño et al. 2009), especially caryophyllene, regardless of the fuel type. Another explanation of the highest flammability of pine's needle-leaves compared to the cypress' scale-leaves could be that the resin ducts, where the terpenes are stored, are located deeply in the pine needles (Bernard-Degan 1988) in contrast to the cypress' sub-epidermal resin glands (Castro and De Magistris 1999). This deeper location delays the vaporization of terpenes whose content will be thus higher when the plant burns. In the current work, we showed that the sesqui- and diterpenes stored in *P. halepensis'* live leaf and litter (high content in caryophyllene and cembrene, respectively) increased flammability, especially leaf maximum temperature for the former and litter flaming duration for the latter. These compounds could thus be considered as functional characteristics linked to fire in the same way as serotiny, for instance. Several other

fire-prone species also presented high sesquiterpene content, such as some species of *Cistus* whose germination is triggered by fire; for instance, *Cistus albidus* and *Cistus monspeliensis* mainly synthesizing sesquiterpenes and, more precisely, caryophyllene for the latter (Llusià and Peñuelas 1998).

C. leylandii's mature stage presented longer leaf flaming duration (litter flammability did not differ between mature and young plants) and higher terpene content (especially cadina-1(6) 4 diene <cis> present only in the mature leaves) than the young plants, sesquiterpene content being the only significant driver of leaf flammability.

Our results also showed that terpene subgroups could have opposite effects (negative for sesquiand monoterpenes and positive for diterpenes regarding litter flaming duration, for instance).

Moreover, a same subgroup (e.g., sesquiterpenes) could in turn enhance or mitigate a same
flammability variable (for instance, flaming duration) from one fuel type to the other. This could
be due to the higher FMC in live leaves suggesting interactions between sesquiterpenes and leaf
water content. Our results highlight that greater terpene content does not necessarily mean greater
flammability. Previous works already showed that different compounds belonging to the same
terpene subgroup could have opposite effects on flammability (Owens et al. 1998; Della Rocca et
al. 2017). We found that the terpene content did not affect some of the flammability variables (e.g.,
leaf ignition frequency, ignition temperature), agreeing with De Lillis et al. (2009). Sometimes this
effect only appeared in the simple linear regressions (as for leaf time-to-ignition or litter maximum
temperature), highlighting that other fuel characteristics could override the effect of terpenes on
flammability.

Relative importance of the different fuel characteristics on flammability

Our results showed that terpenes did not affect ignitability, regardless of the fuel type, ignition frequency and time-to-ignition being primarily affected by thickness and/or FMC (but see Pausas

et al. 2016 or Della Rocca et al. 2017). The effect of terpenes could be hampered by FMC, especially in live leaves (Alessio et al. 2008a; De Lillis et al. 2009) while this hypothesis was not confirmed in the work of Della Rocca et al. (2017). The role of water as terpenes' carrier, favouring or hampering their volatization during the pyrolysis should be investigated further. Indeed, terpenes could be dissolved in water, high FMC implying high terpene concentrations as suggested by Ciccioli et al. (2014).

In our experimental conditions (fuel collected in summer), FMC was a predominant factor only for leaf time-to-ignition, maximum temperature, and ignition frequency but was often overridden by leaf thickness or sesquiterpene content (except for ignition frequency). Blackmarr (1972) underlined the importance of exploring the effect of FMC and thickness at the same time because, when a fuel is thick, more energy is required for water evaporation before ignition becomes possible; that was clearly highlighted for *C. arizonica*'s live leaf and litter (longest time-to-ignition as this species presented the thickest leaves and the highest FMC). Due to lower FMC in litter, thickness was the predominant driver of litter flammability (except for maximum temperature) whereas this factor impacted mostly leaf time-to-ignition, along with FMC. Monoterpene content was among the significant drivers of litter flaming duration, along with that of sesquiterpenes and diterpenes (the latter presenting an opposite effect) as well as with thickness; this result differed from that of Alessio et al. (2008b) who concluded that the effect of this terpene subgroup was overridden by leaf moisture content. It is worth noting that, for *C. coggygria*, the very low leaf thickness (0.022 mm) compared to others species could hinder the effects of the terpene content on flammability.

In the framework of climate change, more severe climate conditions (especially regarding drought) will involve a decrease in FMC which, according to our results, will be more easily overridden by other parameters such as terpene content. Under such conditions, the terpene content is expected to increase given its role in coping for water deficit, as shown in several works (increase

in caryophyllene for *Cistus monspeliensis* as well as in alpha-pinene and delta-3-carene for *P. halepensis* according to Llusià and Peñuelas 1998, in monoterpenes for *Picea abies* and *Pinus sylvestris* according to Turtola et al. 2003, and for *Salvia officinalis* according to Nowak et al. 2010), thereby increasing plant flammability. This role would be especially marked in the more flammable fire-prone species of the Mediterranean region in summer (for *P. halepensis* or the other species studied that are native to this region) or in spring in Arizona (USA) for *C. arizonica*. The effect of terpene content on flammability will thus likely be more pronounced in the future.

Conclusions

Both terpene content and diversity varied according to species and to the stage of plant maturity but the terpene content did not significantly differ between fuel types. *C. leylandii* (especially the mature plants) had the most diverse spectrum and the highest total content (especially regarding monoterpenes) in both leaves and litter. Terpenes and especially leaf sesquiterpenes were involved to varying degrees in plant flammability, yet their effects could be the opposite according to the variable and the fuel type considered. Moreover, for each subgroup, the effect on flammability was mostly due to one compound, which was the most concentrated of the subgroup, showing that flammability was more sensitive to a particular subgroup and, further, to a particular compound than to the total terpene content. *P. halepensis*, presenting the highest leaf and litter sesquiterpene content (mostly due to caryophyllene), was the most flammable species (especially regarding live leaf); *C. leylandii* (mature plants) and *T. occidentalis* were the other most flammable litter. However, even if the terpene content took part in plant flammability, other factors must be considered, such as FMC and especially fuel thickness that could override the terpene content according to the flammability variable considered. Previous studies showed a seasonal variation of the leaf terpene content (along with FMC) in different species including *P. halepensis* (Owens

et al. 1998; Staudt et al. 2000; Alessio et al. 2008a). In future works, it would be pertinent to highlight a possible seasonal variation of flammability according to the variation in moisture and terpene content throughout the year.

The current work underlined once more that, given the important role of ornamental vegetation in the fire propagation in WUI, the fire management in these areas must also acknowledge the potential for the species containing terpenes, such as *P. halepensis*, in affecting fire behaviour. Recommendations to home owners and forest managers should thus be provided accordingly. Indeed, our results confirmed that *P. halepensis*, already considered as a highly flammable species (Trabaud 2000; Dimitrakopoulos 2001), is a deleterious species in the case of a WUI fire and has often been responsible for significant damage to structures. Likewise, in *T. occidentalis*, the diterpene nezukol (which was also the terpene the most concentrated overall) played a significant part in the litter flammability of this species whose litter was also one of the most flammable. This highlighted once more the importance of cleaning the dead surface fuel from under the ornamental hedges in WUI.

Given that storing terpenes could be, for fire-prone species, an adaptive strategy to fire, it could be interesting to exhibit possible adaptations of species/populations to changes in fire regime (intraspecific variations in terpene content among populations undergoing different fire regimes or interspecific variations between two species that present different fire adaptive strategies such as the fire resistant *Pinus sylvestris* and the fire resilient *P. halepensis*).

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786 TABLES

Table 1. Flammability variables (means \pm SD, n=30) according to species and fuel types (T_{MAX}: maximum temperature, TTI: time-to-ignition, T_{TTI}: ignition temperature; FD: flaming duration, and IF: ignition frequency; Ca: *Cupressus arizonica*, Cl_y and Cl_o: young and mature *Cupressocyparis leylandii*, Cc: *Cotinus coggygria*, Cs: *Cupressus sempervirens*, Ph: *Pinus halepensis*, To: *Thuja occidentalis*. *C. coggygria*'s litter was not collected).

Species	T _{MAX} (°C)	TTI (s)	FD (s)	T _{TTI} (°C)	IF (%)
	LEAF				
Ph	545 ±39.2	14 ±2.4	13.9 ±3.1	318.7 ±17	100
Cs	428.4 ± 17.7	26.3 ± 5.1	10.6 ± 1.6	334.4 ± 26.6	81
Ca	454.2 ± 39.9	41.3 ± 10.2	11.1 ± 3.9	375.9 ± 32.7	90
$\mathbf{Cl_y}$	420 ± 58.1	27.1 ± 6.6	7.9 ± 1.9	354.8 ± 23.5	81
Clo	459.1 ±35.5	29.4 ± 3.9	12.4 ±2.2	363.6 ±45.7	70
To	466 ± 34.1	26.3 ± 2.4	9.6 ± 2.4	362.3 ±21.7	87
Cc	400.5 ± 46.5	$16.9 \pm \! 6.6$	8.82 ± 4.1	323.7 ± 29.2	77
	LITTER				
Ph	589.4 ±34.9	2.5 ±0.8	14.6 ±3.6	352.5 ±30.7	100
Cs	551.7 ± 100.6	3.3 ± 0.7	21±4.8	335.1 ±31.6	100
Ca	569.2 ± 66.4	3.5 ± 0.8	12.6 ± 3.5	382.3 ± 54	100
$\mathbf{Cl_y}$	628.9 ± 48.2	$3.2 \pm \! 0.9$	14.9 ± 3.5	371.8 ± 35.8	100
Cl_0	619.4 ±45.7	3.2 ± 1.4	18.5 ± 5.3	352.5 ±63.9	100
To	612.6 ± 56.4	2.6 ± 0.8	19.6 ± 5.5	351.9 ±41.8	100
Cc	-	-	-	-	

Table 2: Relationships obtained between leaf and litter flammability variables with fuel characteristics using simple linear regression analyses. Litter IF was not taken into account as this variable scored 100% in all the species (in bold: significant relationships, in italic: analyses performed on moisture and/or thickness-corrected flammability variable; R: correlation coefficient giving the sign of the relationship, R²: adjusted coefficient of determination, and p: p-value; T_{MAX}: Maximum temperature, TTI: time-to-ignition, FD: flaming duration, T_{TTI}: ignition temperature, IF: ignition frequency).

LEAF	FMC	Thickness	Monoterpenes	Sesquiterpenes	Diterpenes	Total Terpenes
	NS	NS	NS	F= 25.87 ; p< 0.0001	NS	NS
T_{MAX}				$R = 0.71$; $R^2 = 0.48$		
TTT	F=13.28 ; p=0.001	F= 19.57 ; p= 0.0001	NS	F = 6.67; $p = 0.016$	NS	NS
TTI	R =0.55; R ² = 0.28	$R = 0.62$; $R^2 = 0.37$		$R = -0.45$; $R^2 = 0.17$		
ED	NS	F= 95.95 ; p < 0.0001	NS	NS	F = 9.68; $p = 0.005$	F = 5.70; $p = 0.023$
FD		$rR = -0.87$; $R^2 = 0.75$			$R = -0.52$; $R^2 = 0.24$	$R = -0.39$; $R^2 = 0.13$
T_{TTI}	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
щ	F=8.97 ; p=0.020	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
IF	$R = -0.40$; $R^2 = 0.13$					

LITTER	FMC	Thickness	Monoterpenes	Sesquiterpenes	Diterpenes	Total Terpenes
T	NS	NS	F= 6.44 ; p= 0.017	NS	F= 7.61 ; p= 0.010	F= 10.62 ; p= 0.003
T_{MAX}			$R = 0.43$; $R^2 = 0.16$		$R = 0.46$; $R^2 = 0.19$	$R = 0.52$; $R^2 = 0.25$
TTI	NS	F= 7.11; p= 0.013	NS	NS	NS	NS
TTI		$R = 0.45$; $R^2 = 0.17$				
ED	NS	F= 6.36 ; p= 0.018	NS	F = 6.06; $p = 0.020$	F = 4.75; $p = 0.038$	NS
FD		$R = -0.43$; $R^2 = 0.16$		$R = -0.42$; $R^2 = 0.15$	$R = 0.38$; $R^2 = 0.11$	
т	NS	F= 6.87 ; p= 0.014	NS	NS	NS	NS
T_{TTI}		$R = 0.44$; $R^2 = 0.17$				

Table 3. Results of the partial least squares regression analyses (PLS) highlighting the significant fuel characteristics impacting leaf flammability variables. A second PLS was run after the bootstrap procedure to obtain the correlation coefficients of the significant variables. Analyses were separately run taking into account either the terpene content of the different subgroups or the total terpene content (in bold: significant fuel characteristics, p: p value, R²: adjusted coefficient of determination, R: correlation coefficient; TTI: time-to-ignition, T_{MAX}: maximal temperature, FD: flaming duration, IF: ignition frequency, T_{TTI}: ignition temperature, FMC: fuel moisture content, Thi: leaf thickness, Mono: monoterpene content, Sesqui: sesquiterpene content, Di: diterpene content, Terp_tot: total terpene content; bootstrap p-value: ***: p>0.01, **: p=0.01, *: p=0.05, boot size=1000).

Flammability	Analyses with co	ntent of terpene	subgroups		Analyses with total terpene content			
variable	Results of PLS1	After boostrap	P-value	Results of PLS2	Results of PLS1	After boostrap	P-value	Results of PLS2
TTI	p<0.0001,R ² =0.82			p<0.0001,R ² =0.73	p<0.0001, R ² =0.74			p<0.0001, R ² =0.73
	Thi: R=0.45	Thi	***	Thi: R=0.65	Thi: R=0.70	Thi	***	Thi: R=0.65
	FMC: R= 0.67	FMC	***	FMC: R= 0.58	FMC: R= 0.58	FMC	***	FMC: R= 0.58
	Mono: R= - 0.006				Terp_tot: R= - 0.13			
	Sesqui: R= - 0.16							
	Di: R= - 0.05							
Tmax	p=0.0002,R ² =0.65	FMC	***	p<0.0001,R ² =0.60	NS			
	Thi: R= 0.13	Sesqui	***	FMC: R= - 0.32				

	FMC: R= - 0.43			Sesqui: R= 0.73				
	Mono: R= - 0.24							
	Sesqui: R= 0.83							
	Di: R= 0.27							
								p<0.0001,
FD	p=0.003, R ² =0.29	Thi	***	p=0.006, R ² =0.26	p<0.0001, R ² =0.81			$R^2=0.80$
	Thi: R= - 0.6	Sesqui	*	Thi: R= - 0.25	Thi: R= - 0.78	Thi	***	Thi: R= - 0.79
	FMC: R= - 0.02			Sesqui: R= 0.33	Terp_tot: R=-0.22	Terp_Tot	**	Terp_tot: R=-0.22
	Mono: R= - 0.09							
	Sesqui: R= 0.34							
	Di: R= - 0.08							
IF	p=0.010, R ² =0.23	FMC	**	p=0.020, R ² =0.16	p=0.008, R ² =0.21			p=0.020, R ² =0.16
	Thi: R= 0.05	Di	NS	FMC: R= - 0.40	Thi: R= 0.11			FMC: R= - 0.40
	FMC: R= - 0.31				FMC: R= - 0.42	FMC	***	
	Mono: R= - 0.10				Terp_tot: R= - 0.16			
	Sesqui: R= - 0.02							
	Di: R= - 0.24							
T_{TTI}	NS				p=0.014, R2=0.18			NS

Thi: R= 0.30

FMC: R= 0.21 FMC *

Terp_tot: R= 0.14

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Table 4. Results of the partial least squares regression analyses (PLS) highlighting the significant fuel characteristics impacting litter flammability variables. A second PLS was run after the bootstrap procedure to obtain the correlation coefficients of the significant variables. Analyses were separately run taking into account either the terpene content of the different subgroups or the total terpene content (in bold: significant fuel characteristics, p: p value, R²: adjusted coefficient of determination, R: correlation coefficient; TTI: time-to-ignition, T_{MAX}: maximal temperature, FD: flaming duration, T_{TTI}: ignition temperature, FMC: fuel moisture content, Thi: leaf thickness, Mono: monoterpene content, Sesqui: sesquiterpene content, Di: diterpene content, Terp_tot: total terpene content; bootstrap p-value: ***: p>0.01, **: p=0.01, *: p=0.05, boot size=1000). Litter IF was not taken into account in the analysis as this variable scored 100% for all species.

Flammability	Analyses with co	ontent of terpene	subgroups		Analyses with total terpene content			
variable	Results of PLS1	After boostrap	P-value	Results of PLS2	Results of PLS1	After boostrap	P-value	Results of PLS2
TTI	p=0.004, R ² =0.33			p=0.013, R ² =0.20	p=0.005, R ² =0.25			p=0.013,R ² =0.20
	Thi: R=0.36	Thi	*	Thi: R=0.45	Thi: R=0.52	Thi	***	Thi: R=0.45
	FMC: R= -0.17				FMC: R= -0.08			
	Mono: R= 0.20				Terp_tot: R= 0.10			
	Sesqui: R= - 0.26							
	Di: R= - 0.06							
Tmax	p=0.003, R ² =0.27	NS			p=0.001, R ² =0.31			p=0.003,R ² =0.27
	Thi: R= - 0.02				Thi: R= - 0.04			Terp_Tot:R=0.52

	FMC: R= 0.16				FMC: R= 0.24			
	Mono: R= 0.24				Terp_tot:R= 0.45	Terp_tot	***	
	Sesqui: R=- 0.002							
	Di: R= -0.25							
FD	p=0.0002, R ² =0.57	Thi	***	p<0.0001,R ² =0.56	p=0.002, R ² =0.36			p=0.003, R ² =0.35
	Thi: R= - 0.61	Mono	*	Thi: R= - 0.56	Thi: R= - 0.52	Thi	***	FMC: R=0.41
	FMC: R= 0.18	Sesqui	**	Mono: R= - 0.52	FMC: R= 0.44	FMC	**	Thi: R= - 0.50
	Mono: R= - 0.43	Di	***	Sesqui: R= - 0.42	Terp_tot: R= - 0.11			
	Sesqui: R= - 0.42			Di: R= 0.49				
	Di: R= 0.34							
T_{TTI}	p=0.010, R ² =0.34			p=0.014, R ² =0.20	$p=0.032, R^2=0.28$			p=0.014, R ² =0.20
	Thi: R= 0.58	Thi	**	Thi: R= 0.44	Thi: R= 0.53	Thi	***	Thi: R= 0.44
	FMC: R= - 0.04				FMC: R= - 0.15			
	Mono: R= 0.39				Terp_tot: R=0.29			
	Sesqui: R= 0.33							
	Di: R= - 0.04							

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