

1 **Poor adult nutrition impairs learning and memory in a parasitoid**

2 **wasp**

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21 **Running Title: nutrition quality and adults memory**

22

23 **Abstract:**

24 Animals have evolved cognitive abilities whose impairment can incur dramatic fitness costs.
25 While malnutrition is known to impact brain development and cognitive functions in vertebrates,
26 little is known in insects, whose small brain appears particularly vulnerable to environmental
27 stressors. Here, we investigated the influence of diet quality on learning and memory in the
28 parasitoid wasp *Venturia canescens*. Newly emerged adults were exposed for 24h to either
29 honey, sucrose solution 20%, sucrose solution 10%, or no food, before being conditioned in an
30 olfactory associative learning task in which an odor (orange) was associated to a reward (host
31 larvae). Wasps fed honey showed 3.5 times higher learning performances and 1.5 times longer
32 memory retention times than wasps fed sucrose solutions and starved wasps. Poor diets also
33 reduced longevity and fecundity. Our results demonstrate the importance of early adult nutrition
34 for optimal cognitive function in these parasitoid wasps that must quickly develop olfactory
35 memories for choosing high quality hosts for their progeny.

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37 **Keywords:** *Venturia canescens*; *Ephestia kuehniella*; olfactory learning; memory retention;
38 nutrition

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46 **Introduction**

47 Animals rely on various forms of learning and memories to exploit resources in their
48 environment and adapt to changing conditions [1, 2, 3]. These cognitive abilities are sustained by
49 brains that require large amounts of proteins to grow [4], but also lipids and carbohydrates for
50 maintenance [5, 6, 7]. The process of learning, itself, imposes important energetic costs [8], and
51 the formation of persistent (long-term) memories involves protein synthesis [9, 10]. Therefore,
52 the ability of animals to acquire key nutrients in food is expected to directly impact their
53 cognitive performances [11].

54 Malnutrition is known to affect cognitive functions in vertebrates (e.g. pigeons: [12],
55 mice: [13], cats and dogs: [14]). In humans, for instance, high fat and caloric diets have been
56 associated with hippocampal-dependent memory loss [15, 16]. By contrast, little is known about
57 the cognitive effects of malnutrition in invertebrates. Insects, in particular, rely on an impressive
58 range of learning and memory forms to interact socially and forage, and these cognitive abilities
59 are implemented by only few neurons [17, 18]. The miniature brain of insects is thus particularly
60 vulnerable to a range of environmental stressors, including poor nutrition [19]. For instance, in
61 the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster*, larvae fed diets with unbalanced protein to carbohydrate
62 ratios showed reduced learning performances in an aversive olfactory differential learning task
63 [20]. In the Western honey bee *Apis mellifera*, adults fed pollen with a deficit in specific fatty
64 acids (i.e. Omega-3, Omega-6) had impaired learning and memory performances in an appetitive
65 olfactory differential learning task [21, 22]. These cognitive effects of malnutrition may incur
66 particularly strong fitness costs in many solitary species where adults rely on learning and
67 memory to find food and nourish their progeny by themselves.

68 Solitary parasitoid wasps, such as *Venturia canescens*, learn to associate an odor with a
69 high-quality host to select nutritionally rich environments for the development of their offspring
70 [23, 24, 25]. Before engaging in oviposition, adults encompass a critical period soon after
71 emergence, where they need to find food [26, 27, 28]. Females typically acquire carbohydrates
72 from nectar and honeydew [29, 30, 31]. Other key nutrients such as proteins, minerals and fat,
73 are occasionally obtained from pollen [32]. Since olfactory memory formation is nutritionally
74 demanding, we hypothesized that wasps fed highest quality diets would show the best cognitive
75 performances.

76 Here, we tested whether diet quality during early adulthood affect the cognitive
77 performances of *V. canescens* wasps. We experimentally exposed emerging females to one of
78 four nutritional conditions of decreasing quality in terms of nutrient concentration, nutrient
79 diversity, and energy content (honey – see composition in Table 1, sucrose 20%, sucrose 10%,
80 no food). We then tested the impact of diet on cognition in a conditioning assay in which wasps
81 had to associate an odor to a reward (host) in a flight tunnel. We further tested the influence of
82 diet on fitness by monitoring the longevity and the reproductive success of these wasps.

83 **Results**

84 *Wasps did not show innate odor preference*

85 We first tested the influence of the nutritional condition on innate attraction to odors, by giving
86 individual wasps a simultaneous choice between two odor sources (orange and vanilla) in a flight
87 tunnel with two decisions chambers for 15 min (see details in Figure 1). The wasps did not
88 display any preference for either odor, irrespective of their nutritional condition ($\chi^2_2 = 0.13$, P
89 $= 0.93$, $N = 50$). The proportion of wasps that made no choice (i.e. when the wasps did not fly
90 after 5 mins in the tunnel) remained stable ($30 \pm 2\%$) and was similar across nutritional conditions

91 $(\chi^2 = 0.9, P = 0.69, N = 50)$. This indicates that the nutritional condition did not affect the
92 motivation nor the motor activity of wasps in response to odorants. We therefore arbitrarily
93 chose the orange odor as the conditioned odor (CS+) and the vanilla odor as the new odor (NOd)
94 in all the subsequent behavioral tests.

95 ***Wasps fed honey showed highest learning performance***

96 We then tested the effect of the nutritional condition on olfactory learning. To do so, we first
97 conditioned each wasp in the presence of 30 host larvae and the orange odor (CS+) for 2h. We
98 then tested the conditioned wasps for odor preference by giving them a choice between the CS
99 (orange) and the NOd (vanilla) in the flight tunnel for 15 min. Learning was observed in wasps
100 exposed to each of the four nutritional conditions but at different magnitudes (Figure 2; Binomial
101 GLM Feeding; $\chi^2=87.33, P<.0001$; Conditioning: $\chi^2=14.48, P=0.0001$; Feeding \times conditioning:
102 $\chi^2=7.7, P=0.005$). The highest proportion of correct choices for the CS (85 \pm 3%, N =50) was
103 observed in wasps fed honey. This proportion decreased with diet quality, reaching intermediate
104 levels in wasps fed sucrose diets (72 \pm 2%, N= 50), and a minimum level in starved wasps
105 (62 \pm 2%, N = 50). The proportion of wasps that did not make a choice remained low across
106 nutritional conditions (12 \pm 2%, N=50; Figure 2), but increased with decreasing diet quality,
107 reaching a maximum in starved wasps (29 \pm 3%, N =50; Binomial GLM Feeding; $\chi^2=12.3,$
108 $P=0.006$; Conditioning: $\chi^2=8.93, P=0.002$; Feeding \times conditioning: $\chi^2=7.61, P=0.005$; Figure 2).
109 Therefore, wasps fed highest diet quality showed highest learning performances.

110 ***Wasps fed honey showed longest memory retention***

111 We further tested the effect of the nutritional condition on olfactory memory retention by testing
112 wasps in the flight tunnel at different time periods, between 2h and 30h post conditioning (Figure
113 3). Memory retention was significantly longer in wasps fed honey (27 \pm 3h, N= 600) than in

114 wasps fed 20% ($12 \pm 3h$, $N= 600$) and 10% ($17 \pm 2h$, $N= 600$) sucrose solutions, and starved wasps
115 ($8 \pm 2h$, $N= 600$; ANOVA: $F= 302.2$, $P < 0.0001$). Therefore, wasps fed highest diet quality
116 showed longest memory retention.

117 *Wasps fed honey had highest longevity and fecundity*

118 We finally tested the effects of the nutritional condition (i.e. diets) and conditioning (i.e.
119 conditioned vs unconditioned wasps) on fitness, by measuring the longevity and the fecundity of
120 wasps. Both the nutritional condition and conditioning had significant effects on longevity
121 (Figure 3A; Cox model; nutritional condition: $p < 0.001$; conditioning: $p < 0.001$; nutritional
122 condition x conditioning: $p = 0.504$). Honey diet reduced the risk of death by 16 compared to no
123 food ($HR = 0.06$), while conditioning increased this risk by 3 ($HR = 2.97$) indicating a cost of
124 learning and memory formation. The nutritional condition also influenced the fecundity of
125 wasps, so that honey diet increased by 2.75 the number of offspring per female in comparison to
126 no food (Figure 3B; Poisson GLM; diet: $p < 0.001$; conditioning: $p = 0.184$; diet x conditioning: p
127 $= 0.081$). Thus overall, early nutritional experience had long lasting effects on adult fitness.

128 **Discussion**

129 Recent studies showed that a lack of specific nutrients [21, 22] or an unbalanced ratio of these
130 nutrients [20] in food can result in impaired cognitive abilities in model insect species, such as
131 honey bees and fruit flies. Here, we found that olfactory learning performances and memory
132 retention times of *V. canescens* wasps were considerably affected by a poor diet soon after adult
133 emergence. This impact of early adult nutrition on cognition may be particularly critical in this
134 parasitoid species, where females must learn to locate best quality hosts for their progeny.

135 *V. canescens* can learn a variety of olfactory and visual stimuli associated to their hosts
136 [25, 33, 34]. Here we found that poor diet (sucrose solutions, or no food) at early stages of

137 adulthood significantly reduced olfactory learning and memory retention times. These effects are
138 not developmental as wasps were exposed to nutritional treatments during 24h as adults only.
139 Impaired cognition therefore likely reflects physiological needs for cognitive function in fully
140 developed brains. The fact that conditioning affected longevity, irrespective of the diet, clearly
141 shows the physiological cost associated to learning and memory formation, as previously shown
142 in fruit flies [9].

143 Unsurprisingly, wasps exposed to food (either honey or sucrose solution) always
144 performed better than starved wasps that presumably lacked energy for basal brain functions. But
145 how can we explain differences in wasps fed honey or sucrose solutions? The fact that wasps
146 exposed to different diets did not differ in their proportions of no choices, indicates that food
147 composition did not affect the locomotion or the motivation of the wasps. Therefore, the
148 observed effects are specific to learning and memory. We discuss two, non-mutually exclusive,
149 possible mechanisms.

150 Firstly, honey could yield higher cognitive performance because it contains more total
151 nutrients and/or energy. Overall, honey contained much more total energy (284cal/mg) than 20%
152 sucrose solution (80cal/mg) and 10% sucrose solution (40cal/mg). It contained
153 monosaccharaides, like glucose and fructose, that can directly or indirectly (when in combined
154 forms such as glycogen) be absorbed by the insects [35]. These monosaccharaides constitute the
155 carbohydrate-based energy source for the insects. By contrast, sucrose is a disaccharide
156 consisting of one glucose and one fructose molecule that must be broken down by enzymatic
157 reactions before being used as energy source, thus constituting an additional physiological cost
158 [36]. This difference in total amount of carbohydrates in diets may also explain the important

159 difference in survival by wasps fed honey and wasps fed sucrose solution, as carbohydrates have
160 a well-known positive impact on longevity in insects [29, 30, 37].

161 Alternately, the effects of early adult nutrition on cognition may be due to the lack of
162 specific nutrients in food. Honey contains a rich diversity of nutrients including amino acids and
163 minerals that were not present in sucrose solutions (e.g. Table 1). The most abundant amino acid
164 in honey is proline [38, 39]. The endogenous neutral amino acid L-proline exhibits a variety of
165 physiological and behavioral actions in the nervous system and in increasing or improving
166 memory retention in vertebrates [40, 41]. In honey bees, a decrease of proline in body led to
167 lower learning ability and memory retention [42]. In our experiments, the lack of proteins in
168 sucrose solution likely explains the reduced reproductive success of wasps fed sucrose compared
169 to wasps fed honey, as these are required nutrients for egg production. Honey also includes
170 several macro and micro-elements minerals such as potassium, magnesium, calcium, iron,
171 phosphorus, sodium [43]. Potassium is the most abundant mineral [43, 44]. In human, potassium
172 uptake increase learning and memory [45]. Honey also contains potassium and sodium. The
173 Na^+/K^+ -pump on postsynaptic receptors plays a critical role in synaptic transmission in the brain
174 and a lack of these elements may induced impaired cognitive functions [46, 47, 48].

175 Unfortunately, our experimental design does not allow to disentangle these mechanisms.
176 Nonetheless, our results demonstrate the crucial importance of adult feeding on their cognitive
177 abilities, longevity and reproduction. These observations in the lab suggest poor adult nutrition
178 can have dramatic consequences for wasps in natural conditions. The importance of nutrition
179 may in fact be greatly magnified in the wild, where wasps must develop costly learning and
180 memory to identify suitable hosts for oviposition, but also need to locate these hosts using
181 olfactory cues associated to the presence of larvae [49]. Wild *V. canescens* wasps are often found

182 in environments where hosts are highly scattered, for instance in orchards where infested fruits
183 are occupied by no more one or two larvae [34, 50]. It is therefore very likely that wasps must
184 flight long distances in order to parasite, thereby incurring additional energetic costs of
185 movements [51]. In these conditions, feeding of high quality foods, such as honey, may provide
186 considerable advantages to wasps. Future experiments could further explore this critical
187 interaction between diet and cognition, using experimental designs of nutritional ecology based
188 on artificial diets controlling for the amount and concentration of nutrients (e.g. [11]). In recent
189 years these approaches have been very successful to identify the effects of specific nutrients and
190 energy contents on fitness traits in many organisms (e.g. flies: [29, 30]; crickets: [37]; mice:
191 [52]), including in hymenoptera (e.g. honey bees: [53]; bumblebees: [54]), and yield
192 considerable promises for investigations in cognition research.

193

194 **Material and Methods**

195 *Insect culture*

196 Wasps (*V. canescens*) and their hosts (flour moth *Ephestia kuehniella*) were cultured and tested
197 in incubators at 25°C with a 16:8 Light: Dark photoperiod and 50 ± 5% relative humidity. The *V.*
198 *canescens* culture originated from wild caught individuals sampled in 2017 (Saveh, Markazi
199 province, Iran) and maintained at the University of Tehran. Natural populations of *V. canescens*
200 contain both thelytokous (asexual) and arrhenotokous (sexual) individuals [55]. Here we only
201 used thelytokous wasps as they are more dependent on nutritional resources acquired as adults
202 (income resources) for reproduction and survival than arrhenotokous conspecifics [27]. *E.*
203 *kuehniella* eggs were obtained from a laboratory culture at the Insectary and Quarantine Facility

204 of the University of Tehran. *E. kuehniella* larvae were reared on a standard diet made of 48.5g of
205 wheat flour and 3g of brewer yeast [25].

206 To obtain experimental individuals, groups of 30 one-day old female wasps were
207 presented ca. 200 5th instar host larvae in a large plastic box (30×20×20 cm) and allowed to lay
208 eggs for 24h [25]. Twenty parasitized host larvae were then kept in smaller boxes (5×5×3 cm)
209 until the emergence of adult wasps (range: 25-30 days). Newly emerged wasps (one day old)
210 were fed a 10% honey solution (v/v) to maintain them alive [25]. These wasps (F0) were then
211 placed in one of four nutritional conditions for 24 hours and let to lay eggs. Their progeny (F1)
212 was raised and maintained 24h after emergence in the same nutritional condition before being
213 tested.

214

215 *Nutritional conditions*

216 Newly emerged (one day old) female wasps were isolated in glass boxes (10×5×3 cm) and given
217 *ad libitum* access to either: (1) honey (70% carbohydrates: fructose (38% w/v), glucose (30%
218 w/v), 1% fibers, 1.5% protein, total energy (284cal/mg)) (see details in Table 1), (2) 20% sucrose
219 solution (w/v, total energy(80cal/mg)), (3) 10% sucrose solution (w/v, total energy (40cal/mg)),
220 (4) or no food. Wasps were provided honey as droplets on wax-coated strips of paper. Sucrose
221 solutions were provided in gravity feeders (i.e. 4 cm³ plastic capsule with a capillary tube
222 inserted at the bottom). Wasps were kept in these boxes for 24h before the behavioral assays.

223

224 *Behavioral assays*

225 We performed the cognitive tests in a flight tunnel (200 x 50 x 50 cm) made of transparent
226 Plexiglas (Figure 1; for more details see [56]). The experimental room was illuminated with

227 2000 lux lights provided by LED lights (Pars Shahab Lamp Co., Iran) [25]. Air was driven
228 through the flight tunnel by a fan located at the upwind end, and extracted outside by a fume
229 hood at the downwind end (wind speed of 70 cm/s). The end opposite to the start zone of the
230 tunnel was divided by a glass separator wall in two decision chambers. Each decision chamber
231 contained an odorant stimulus presented on a filter paper attached to a glass pipette placed
232 vertically on a stand. The behavioral data were recorded through visual observation by an
233 experimenter blind regarding to the nutritional conditions of the wasps.

234 Innate odor preference

235 To control for any effect of the nutritional condition on odor preference, we assessed the innate
236 odor preference of the wasps. Wasps from each nutritional condition were given a simultaneous
237 choice between two synthetic odors in the flight tunnel: orange and vanilla (97% pure odors:
238 Adonis Gol Darou Group, Iran) [57]. We assumed that our wasp population has never been
239 exposed to these odors prior to the tests, neither in the field nor in the lab. Each odor was
240 presented on a filter paper scented with 1 µl of the solution in one of the decision chambers of the
241 tunnel. The wasp was placed at the start zone of the tunnel and allowed to make a choice
242 between the two decision chambers for 15 minutes. Any wasp that spent more than three
243 consecutive minutes within 3 cm around the scented filter paper (landed, walking or hovering
244 around) was considered as “making a choice”. Previous studies show that a wasp landing on an
245 odor site for more than three minutes remains longer than 15 minutes on that site [25]. Any wasp
246 that did not fly in the tunnel within five minutes after the beginning of the test was considered as
247 “making no choice” [25]. Fifty wasps were tested for each nutritional condition (N=200 wasps in
248 total). Because we found no innate attraction for either odors, we arbitrarily selected the orange

249 odor as the conditioned stimulus (CS+) and the vanilla odor as the new odor (NOd) in all
250 subsequent experiments.

251

252 Learning

253 We assessed the effect of diet on learning performances using olfactory conditioning. To make
254 sure the wasps had some oviposition experience, and thus avoid the inter-individual variability in
255 the sequence and duration of behavioral events associated with learning from the first host
256 encountered [58], female wasps were individually exposed to 15 host larvae (5th instar) for 15
257 min in a vial (2 cm x 10 cm) before conditioning. Sixty of these wasps were then transferred into
258 conditioning tanks (25 cm x 25 cm x 25 cm) with another 30 host larvae (5th instar). The orange
259 odor (CS+) was pumped into the tanks at an air speed of 1 m/s. The wasps were maintained in
260 these conditions for 2h during which they could associate the orange odor to the presence of host
261 larvae.

262 Learning performance was assessed 15 min after conditioning by presenting the odors of
263 orange (CS) and vanilla (NOd) in each decision chamber of the flight tunnel. Every wasp that
264 spent more than three consecutive minutes within 3 cm of the CS was considered as making a
265 “correct choice”. Wasps that spent more than three minutes within 3 cm of the NOd made an
266 “incorrect choice”. Wasps that did not fly within five minutes after the beginning of the test
267 made “no choice”. Fifty wasps were tested for each nutritional condition (N=200 wasps in total).

268

269 Memory retention

270 We tested the effect of nutritional condition on memory retention time by observing the
271 responses of the conditioned wasps either 2h, 4h, 6h, 8h, 10h, 12h, 14h, 16h, 18h, 20h, 24h, or

272 30h after conditioning [59]. The responses of the wasps to the CS and the NOd were recorded in
273 the flight tunnel as previously described (see section learning). Fifty wasps were observed in
274 each of the four nutritional conditions and twelve time intervals (N=2400 wasps in total).

275

276 *Longevity and fecundity*

277 We tested the effect of the nutritional condition and conditioning on fitness by measuring the
278 longevity and fecundity of conditioned and unconditioned wasps in the four nutritional
279 conditions. To study longevity, we maintained the wasps individually on one of the four
280 nutritional conditions in a plastic box (30 x 20 x 20 cm). We recorded the number of dead wasps
281 every day until all wasps died (18 days). To study fecundity, we placed each wasp in an
282 oviposition cage with 30 host larvae (5th instar). Every day, we monitored the number of wasps
283 emerging from the parasitized hosts and replaced the host larvae by new ones. Thirty females
284 were used for each combination of conditioning and nutritional condition for longevity and for
285 fecundity (N=480 wasps in total).

286

287 *Statistical analyses*

288 We analyzed the innate odor responses and learning data using SAS (SAS Institute Inc. 2003).
289 We compared the innate odor response of wasps exposed to different nutritional conditions using
290 Chi-square tests. We tested the effect of nutritional conditions on memory performance using a
291 Generalized Linear Model (GLM) implemented in the procedure GENMOD (binomial family
292 error, logit link function). We compared the least square estimates of the proportions in each
293 level using the Chi-square approximation. When we found a significant effect of the treatment,
294 we applied a Bonferroni's post hoc multiple comparison tests, and evaluated the two-by-two

295 comparisons at the Bonferroni-corrected significance level of $P = 0.05/k$, where k is the number
296 of comparisons.

297 We estimated the effect of the nutritional condition on memory retention by developing a
298 dynamic and statistical model following Kishani Farahani et al. [59]. Briefly, the estimation of
299 forgetting relies on a series of observations recorded at different times $t_1; t_2; \dots t_n$ after
300 conditioning. At each time, a set of n_t subjects was subjected to a choice test with three possible
301 responses: a ; b ; and c , which correspond respectively to a preference for the orange side, a
302 preference for vanilla side, and to a no choice. The forgetting of conditioning results in a switch
303 from a high level to a lower level of correct responses, a simultaneous switch from a low level to
304 a high level of no choices, and a switch from a very low to a moderate level of incorrect choices.
305 A constraint links the three responses as $n_a + n_b + n_c = n_t$ or $n_c = n_t - n_a - n_b$. The course of these
306 three responses over time can be described by two logistic functions written here as probabilities,
307 p_a, p_b, p_c , constrained by $p_a + p_b + p_c = 1$:

308

$$(1) \quad p_a = k_a - \frac{k_a - a_a}{1 + e^{(-b_a(t-t_0))}} + a_a$$

309

$$(2) \quad p_c = \frac{k_c - a_c}{1 + e^{(-b_c(t-t_0))}} + a_c$$

310

$$(3) \quad p_b = 1 - p_a - p_c$$

312

313

314 Where k_a , respectively k_c , and a_a , respectively a_c , define the sill and baselines of the logistic
315 models (1) and (2): the baselines are a_a and a_c , and the seals are $k_a + a_a$ in model (1), $k_c + a_c$ in
316 model (2). $k_a + a_a$ estimates the initial state in model (1), and a_c the final state. It is the inverse in
317 model (2), where a_c is the initial state and $k_c + a_c$ the final state. A supplementary restriction lies
318 in the fact that, as t_0 represents the mean time to oblivion, i.e. the inflection time point of the
319 logistics functions; it has to be the same in all three equations. The data consist of a vector of

320 three counts: $V_t = (n_{at}, n_{bt}, n_{ct})$ the respective number of subjects responding a; b or c at time t.

321 An R script was written to do this (see Supplementary text S1). The model defined by equations
322 1 to 3 was fitted individually on each set of ten data. The maximization of the likelihood cannot
323 be fully automatic and requires an initial guess of the seven parameters k_a ; a_a ; b_a ; k_c ; a_c ; b_c ; t_0 .
324 This was done by a visual evaluation of each graphic representation of the crossed levels. We
325 compared memory retention times across nutritional conditions using an Analysis of Variance
326 (ANOVA, using SAS).

327 We analyzed longevity and fecundity data in R 4.0.3 (R Core Team 2020). We tested the
328 effect of the nutritional conditions, conditioning and their interactions on longevity using a Cox
329 proportional hazards regression model (function `coxph` in package “survival” [60]). We tested the
330 effect of the nutritional conditions, conditioning and their interactions on fecundity using
331 generalized linear mixed-effects model (GLMM) with Poisson family (function `glmer` in package
332 “lme4” [61]). We added wasp identity and day of experiment as random factors in all models.

333

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487 **Table 1.** Honey composition. Honey analysis was made by ASA Laboratory (Tehran, Iran) based
488 on ISIRI-7610, ISIRI-92 and European Honey Directive and the Codex Alimentarius Standard
489 for Honey standards.
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| Ingredients | | Per 100 g |
|----------------------|------------|------------------|
| Protein | | 1.5 g |
| Carbohydrates | | 70 g |
| Sugars | Glucose | 30 g |
| | Fructose | 38 g |
| Fat | | 0 |
| Fiber | | 1 g |
| Vitamins | B6 | 4% |
| | C | 3% |
| | Riboflavin | 8% |
| | Folate | 3% |
| Potassium | | 50mg |
| Sodium | | 10mg |
| Total Energy | | 284 cal/mg |

527 Figure legends:

528 Figure 1. **Schematic view of the flight tunnel (top view)**. Individual wasps were introduced in
529 the start chamber and observed choosing between the two odors displayed on filter papers in the
530 decision chambers for 15 minutes.

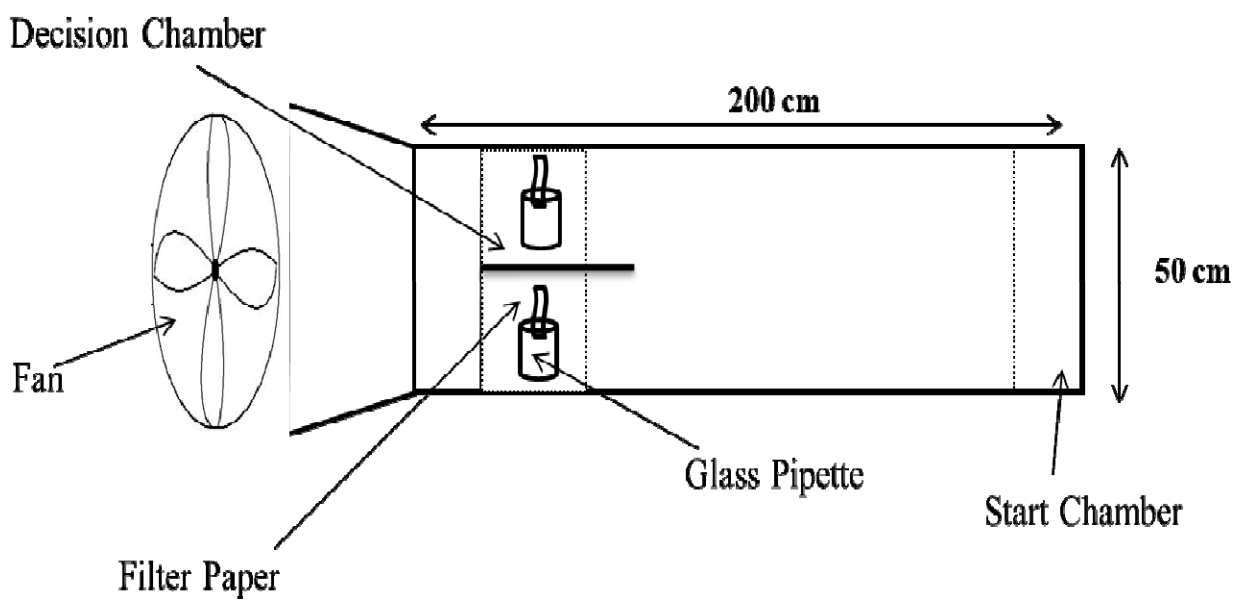
531 Figure 2. **Learning performances**. Percentages of correct choices for the conditioned stimulus
532 (CS, orange odor) and no choices for each nutritional condition. Box plots represent the median
533 (bold line), the interquartile range (length of box), and extreme, maximum and minimum, data
534 points. Generalized Linear Models (GLM) were implemented with the binomial family error and
535 logit link. Different letters above bar plots indicate significant differences between the treatments
536 after Bonferroni correction ($P = 0.0125$). $N = 50$ wasps per nutritional condition (200 wasps in
537 total).

538 Figure 3. **Memory retention times**. Box plots show the median (bold line), the interquartile
539 range (length of box), and extreme, maximum and minimum, data points. Memory retentions
540 were compared using one way analysis of variance (ANOVA). Different letters indicate
541 significant differences between the treatments after Bonferroni correction ($P = 0.0125$). $N = 50$
542 wasps per nutritional condition and time interval (2400 wasps in total).

543 Figure 4. **Longevity and fecundity**. Effect of the nutritional condition (colors) and conditioning
544 (solid or dashed lines) on survival probability (**a**) and fecundity (**b**) of female wasps. Survival
545 curves were obtained from Kaplan Meier model (function `survfit` in R package “survival”
546 (Therneau 2015)). In the boxplot, the central line is the median, the edges of the box are the 25th
547 and 75th percentiles, the whiskers extend to the most extreme data points not considered outliers,
548 outliers are represented by points. Median lifespan is indicated for each group in the fecundity
549 graph. Different letters indicate significant differences between the treatments after Tukey post-
550 hoc.

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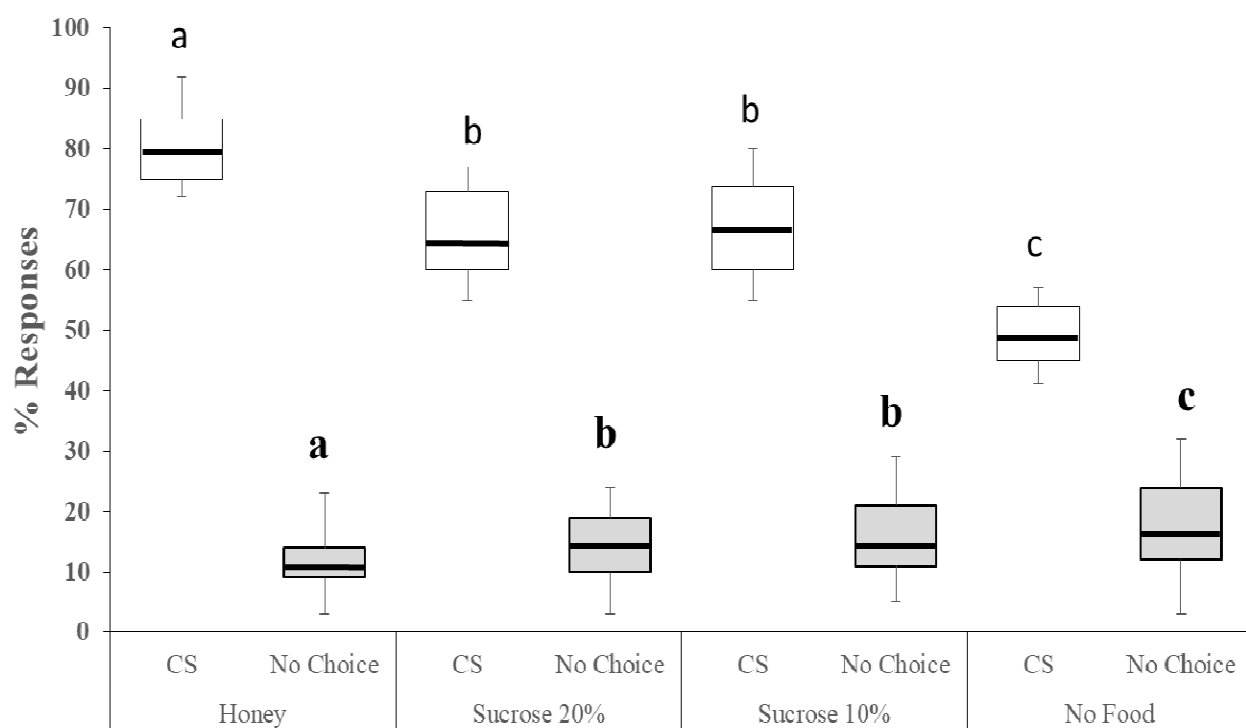
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555 **Figure 1:**

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562 **Figure 2.**

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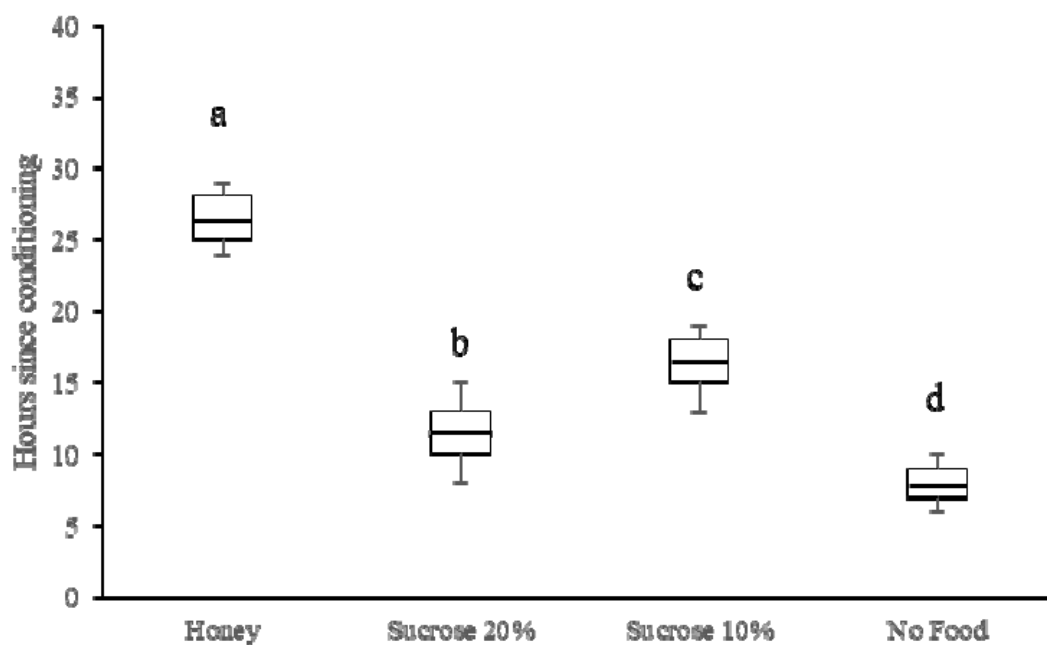
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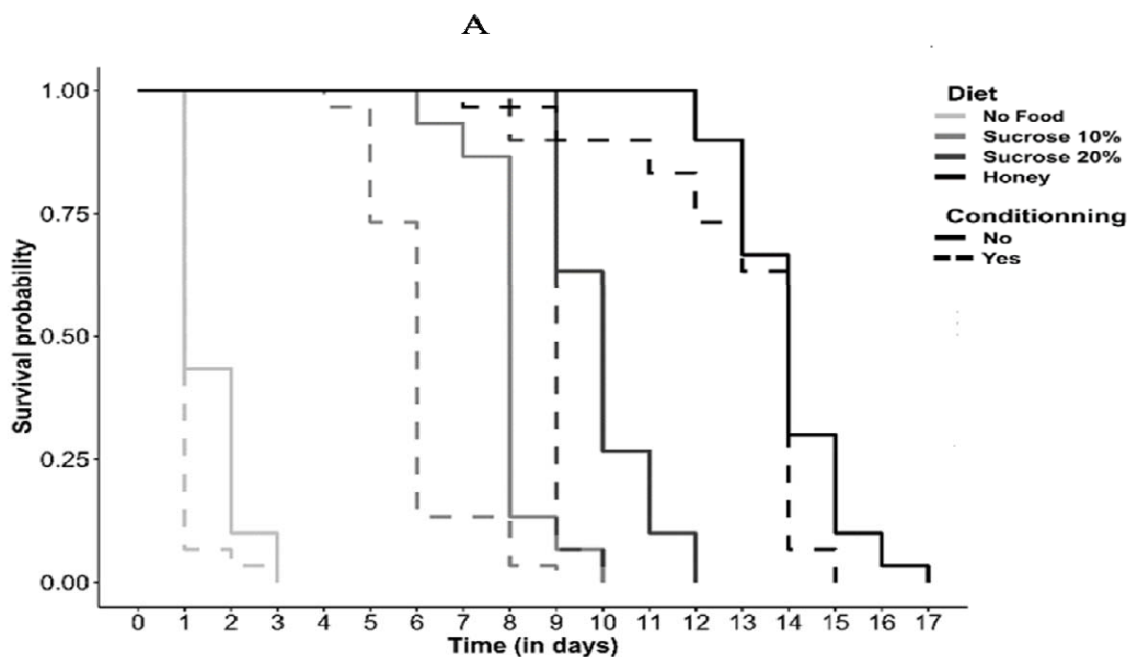


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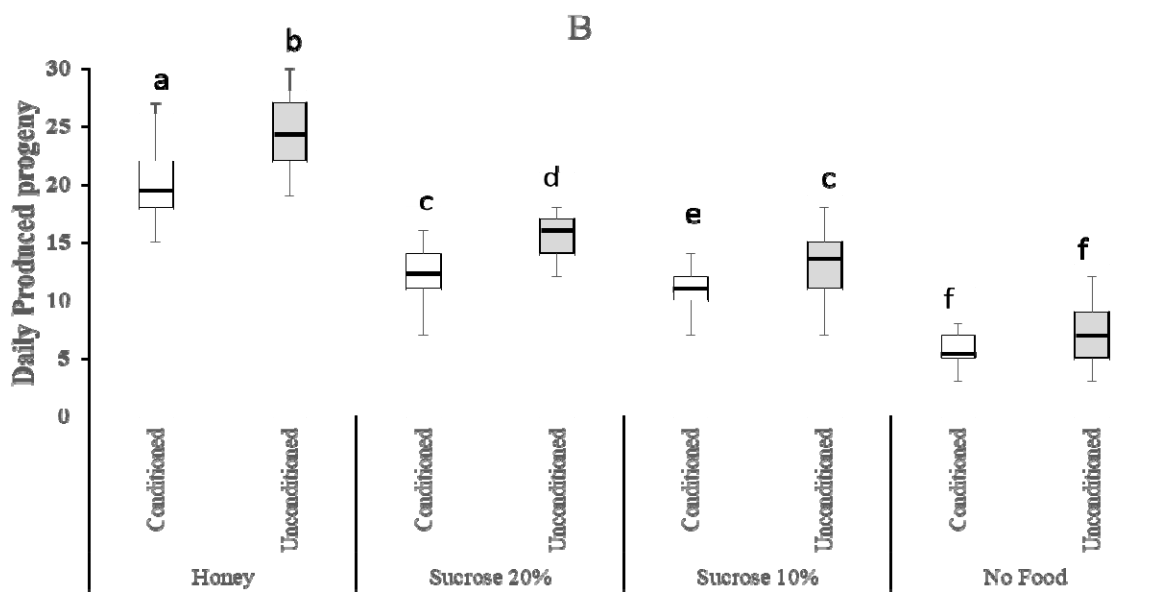
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572 **Figure 3.**

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Figure 4.

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