



Timely trigger of caterpillar zombie behaviour: temporal requirements for light in baculovirus-induced tree-top disease

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1 **Timely trigger of caterpillar zombie behaviour: temporal**  
2 **requirements for light in baculovirus-induced tree-top disease**

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9 **Running title: Timely trigger of zombie behaviour**

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14 **SUMMARY**

15 Host behavioural manipulation is a common strategy used by parasites to enhance their survival  
16 and/or transmission. Baculoviruses induce hyperactivity and tree-top disease (pre-death climbing  
17 behaviour) in their caterpillar hosts. However, little is known about the underlying mechanisms of this  
18 behavioural manipulation. Previous study showed that the baculovirus *Spodoptera exigua* multiple  
19 nucleopolyhedrovirus (SeMNPV) induced tree-top disease at 3 days post infection in third instar  
20 *S. exigua* larvae and that light plays a key role in triggering this behaviour. Here we investigated the  
21 temporal requirements for the presence of light to trigger this behaviour and found that light from  
22 above was needed between 43-50 hours post infection to induce tree-top disease. Infected larvae that  
23 were not exposed to light from above in this period finally died at low positions. Exposure to light prior  
24 to this period did not affect the final positions where larvae died. Overall we conclude that light in a  
25 particular time frame is needed to trigger SeMNPV-induced tree-top disease in *S. exigua* larvae.

26 **Key words**

27 Behavioural manipulation; parasitic manipulation; tree-top disease; baculovirus; SeMNPV; *Spodoptera*  
28 *exigua*; phototaxis.

29

30 **KEY FINDINGS**

- 31 a. Baculovirus-infected caterpillars display positive phototaxis prior to death.
- 32 b. Light from above between 43 and 50 hours post infection induced climbing.
- 33 c. Triggering of phototaxis and the actual climbing occurred at different times.

34

35 **INTRODUCTION**

36 The complex interplay between host and invading parasites may result in a wide range of changes both  
37 in the host and in the parasite (Lefèvre et al. 2009; Libersat et al. 2009; Hughes 2013; van Houte et al.  
38 2013). Some of these changes are adaptive to the host, e.g. when these changes prevent further  
39 parasite dissemination to relatives (Bos et al. 2012). However, some of the alterations appear adaptive  
40 to the parasite, thereby enhancing parasite transmission (Lefèvre et al. 2009; van Houte et al. 2013).  
41 Parasites, including viruses, may alter host physiology or morphology, but may also manipulate host  
42 behaviour (Lefèvre et al. 2009; van Houte et al. 2013). Parasitic manipulation of host behaviour can  
43 range from temporal changes of existing behavioural traits to the induction of completely new traits.  
44 Cases of behavioural manipulation include changes in host locomotion, reproductive behaviour,  
45 feeding and phototactic behaviour (Lefèvre et al. 2009; van Houte et al. 2013).

46 Baculoviruses are arthropod-specific viruses, mainly infecting lepidopteran larvae (Williams et al. 2016).  
47 These viruses are known to induce two behavioural changes in their caterpillar hosts: hyperactivity and  
48 tree-top disease (Kamita et al. 2005; Hoover et al. 2011; Katsuma et al. 2012; van Houte et al. 2012;  
49 Han et al. 2015; Ros et al. 2015). After infection, caterpillars become hyperactive and prior to death,  
50 they climb to the upper parts of plants, where they die. Because baculoviruses are able to liquefy their  
51 hosts, death at elevated positions potentially aids the virus to be spread over a larger area of plant  
52 foliage, thus increasing virus transmission to subsequent generations of caterpillars (Goulson, 1997;

53 Hoover et al. 2011; Han et al. 2015). Moreover, the exposed caterpillar cadavers are more visible to  
54 birds, which feed on these caterpillars and can transport the viruses over large distances (Goulson,  
55 1997).

56 Though baculovirus-induced behavioural changes were first reported in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, it is only  
57 during the last decade that the underlying mechanisms have started to be unravelled. Hoover et al.  
58 (2011) showed that the ecdysteroid uridine 5'-diphosphate UDP-glucosyltransferase (*egt*) gene of  
59 *Lymantria dispar* MNPV (LdMNPV) is involved in tree-top disease in *L. dispar* larvae. However, the *egt*  
60 gene of AcMNPV is not involved in inducing tree-top disease in *S. exigua* and *Trichoplusia ni* larvae:  
61 larvae infected with a mutant AcMNPV lacking the *egt* gene still died at elevated positions (Ros et al.  
62 2015). In these latter two host species, moulting-related climbing (climbing prior to moulting) was  
63 affected by *egt*, but not tree-top disease (climbing prior to death) (Ros et al. 2015). In a different virus-  
64 host combination, concerning the baculovirus *S. exigua* MNPV (SeMNPV) and its single host *S. exigua*,  
65 it was found that the *egt* gene might be involved in tree-top disease indirectly, through prolonging the  
66 lifespan of infected larvae (Han et al. 2015). Wildtype (WT) SeMNPV-infected third instars climbed to  
67 and died at elevated positions between 57 and 67 hours post infection (hpi). Before 57 hpi, WT  
68 SeMNPV-infected larvae stayed at low positions. Though the larvae infected with a mutant virus  
69 (lacking the *egt* gene) died at lower positions, meanwhile they also had a shorter lifespan (most died  
70 before 57 hpi). Consequently, mutant virus-infected larvae did not reach the time point at which  
71 climbing behaviour was observed in WT-infected larvae. Therefore, it is concluded that SeMNPV *egt*  
72 facilitates tree-top disease in *S. exigua* larvae by extending the larval lifespan (Han et al. 2015). The  
73 aforementioned studies showed that the effect of *egt* on tree-top disease is not a conserved trait  
74 among all baculoviruses, and that *egt* might influence larval time to death or moulting-related climbing  
75 behaviour, and therewith it can in some cases (indirectly) affect the outcome of tree-top disease.

76 Recently, it was found that light plays a key role in the induction of tree-top disease (van Houte et al.  
77 2014; van Houte et al. 2015). Prior to death, *S. exigua* larvae infected with WT SeMNPV became

78 positively phototactic and showed a strong tendency to move towards light. Infected larvae died at  
79 elevated positions when light was given from above, however, larvae died at low positions when the  
80 light was provided from below, or when larvae were continuously kept in the dark after infection.  
81 Uninfected larvae did not show phototactic behaviour, since larvae kept either in dark or in light  
82 conditions behaved similarly (van Houte et al. 2014).

83 To better understand the role of light in baculovirus-induced behavioural changes, we investigated the  
84 importance of the timing of light exposure in the induction of positive phototaxis in SeMNPV-infected  
85 *S. exigua* larvae. In this paper, we show that exposure of WT virus-infected larvae to light between 43  
86 and 50 hpi is important for the induction of light-dependent tree-top disease. In contrast, exposure to  
87 light prior to or after this period does not affect the vertical position of the larvae at death.

## 88 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### 89 *Insect larvae and virus*

90 *Spodoptera exigua* larvae were fed on artificial diet and kept at 27°C with 50% relative humidity as  
91 described before (Smits et al. 1986) using a 14 L : 10 D photoperiod (7:00 lights on, 21:00 lights off).  
92 SeMNPV G25, a naturally occurring WT SeMNPV strain (Murillo et al. 2006), was used in this study.  
93 Viral occlusion bodies (OBs) were amplified by infecting *S. exigua* fourth instars and OBs were purified  
94 from dead larvae and counted using a Bürker-Türk haemocytometer as described before (van Houte  
95 et al. 2012).

### 96 *Behavioural assays*

#### 97 Experimental design

98 Three different behavioural assays were performed (see below) and each behavioural assay was  
99 executed twice as two independent replicates. For all three assays, newly moulted third instars of  
100 *S. exigua* were infected with WT SeMNPV, using droplet feeding as described before (Han et al. 2015).

101 A viral titre of  $10^6$  OBs/ml was used for infection, which is known to kill at least 90% of infected larvae.  
102 For each treatment, thirty larvae were infected by droplet feeding. As controls, ten mock-infected  
103 larvae, droplet fed with a virus-free solution, were used per assay. These mock-infected larvae were  
104 included to check for possible contaminations – in all assays mock-infected larvae developed normally  
105 and none of these larvae died due to a virus infection. Droplet-fed larvae were placed individually in  
106 glass jars (120 mm high and 71 mm in diameter). Jars contained a cube of artificial diet (approx. 3.5  
107  $\text{cm}^3$ ) at the bottom and were lined with sterile mesh wire to facilitate larval climbing. Jars were covered  
108 with transparent plastic Saran wrap containing three small holes for ventilation. Jars were incubated  
109 at 27°C with 50% relative humidity. The vertical position where the infected larvae died was recorded  
110 at five days post infection. Larvae that did not die following virus infection (survived despite being  
111 droplet fed with virus or died of other causes) were excluded from analyses (14 out of 840 infected  
112 larvae from three behavioural assays).

#### 113 Behavioural assay 1: light from above, from light to dark conditions

114 To determine the time point at which light was needed to trigger positive phototaxis, groups of thirty  
115 larvae were switched from normal day/night intervals to dark conditions at different time points post  
116 infection. In this assay, if light was used, it was applied from above using three luminescent tubes (18 W  
117 each), which were placed 30 cm above the jars containing the larvae. The side and bottom of the jars  
118 were covered with aluminium foil and the jars were placed in a black box to block light from other  
119 directions than from above. Five different experimental treatments were used: larvae of group 1 (Gr  
120 1, Fig. 1A) were kept in the dark (0 L : 24 D) throughout the experiment; larvae of group 2, 3, and 4 (Gr  
121 2, 3, 4 in Fig. 1A) were first exposed to the normal 14 L : 10 D photoperiod regime until 43, 50, and 57  
122 hpi, respectively, after which they were switched to completely darkness (0 L : 24 D); larvae of the  
123 control group were kept under normal light/dark conditions (14 L : 10 D) throughout the experiment,  
124 using light from above ( $C_a$ , Fig. 1A).

125 Behavioural assay 2: light from below, from light to dark conditions

126 To determine whether the direction of light was important during the time period determined in assay  
127 1, the experiment was repeated with light applied only from below. To this end, three luminescent  
128 tubes (18 W each) were placed 30 cm below the jars containing infected larvae. The side of jars were  
129 covered with aluminium foil. A black box was placed over the jars to block light from other directions.  
130 Six different experimental conditions were used: larvae of Gr 1-4 (Fig. 1A) were applied with the same  
131 L : D photoperiods as described in behavioural assay 1, only the light was applied from below instead  
132 of above; larvae of two control groups were kept under normal light/dark conditions (14 L : 10 D)  
133 throughout the experiment using light from above (C<sub>a</sub>, Fig. 1A) or from below (C<sub>b</sub>, Fig. 1A).

134 Behavioural assay 3: light from above, from dark to light conditions

135 In the third behavioural assay we aimed to determine whether light at the beginning of the infection  
136 is needed for SeMNPV-induced tree-top disease. Larvae were first kept under complete dark  
137 conditions, after which they were switched to a normal light/dark regime. In this assay light was  
138 applied from above as described in behavioural assay 1. Three different experimental conditions were  
139 used: larvae of Gr 1 (Fig. 2A) were kept in the dark (0 L : 24 D) throughout the experiment; larvae of Gr  
140 2 (Fig. 2A) were first kept in the dark (0 L : 24 D) until 43 hpi, after this point they were switched to  
141 normal light/dark conditions (14 L : 10 D); larvae of C<sub>a</sub> (Fig. 2A) were kept under normal light/dark  
142 conditions (14 L : 10 D) throughout the experiment.

143 *Data analysis*

144 The linear regression model (lm) analysis in the program R v3.0.0. (R Core Team, 2013) was used to  
145 analyse the position of the larvae at death (Ros et al. 2015). Treatment (different light/dark regime)  
146 and experiment (two replicates) were used as explanatory factors and it was determined whether  
147 these factors affected the vertical positions of the larvae at death. Since most larvae died as third instar  
148 (or during moulting from third to fourth instar), larval stage was excluded as a factor.



149 **RESULTS**

150 *Light between 43 and 50 hpi triggers SeMNPV-induced tree-top disease*

151 To investigate during which time period after infection light was needed for SeMNPV-induced tree-top  
152 disease, we performed a behavioural assay using virus-infected larvae exposed to different light : dark  
153 (L : D) regimes (using light from above). Results showed that light between 43 (7:00 hrs at day 2 post  
154 infection) and 50 hpi (14:00 hrs at day 2 post infection) was essential to trigger tree-top disease and  
155 light after 50 hpi was not needed for tree-top disease. Larvae kept under complete dark conditions  
156 from the start of the experiment (Gr 1 in Fig. 1B), or following the 33 hpi point (21:00 hrs at day 1 post  
157 infection) (Gr 2 in Fig. 1B) died at low positions. However, larvae kept under a 14 L : 10 D photoperiod  
158 until 50 hpi (so with light from 43-50 hpi) and then switched to darkness, died at high positions (Gr 3  
159 in Fig. 1B) (Gr 1 ( $n = 58$ ) and Gr 2 ( $n = 59$ ) versus Gr 3 ( $n = 59$ );  $T$ -test = 3.174 and 4.013, respectively;  
160 d.f. = 288;  $p < 0.01$  and  $p < 0.001$ , respectively). Moving larvae to complete dark conditions at a later  
161 time point (57 hpi, Gr 4) or keeping them under normal L : D conditions ( $C_a$ ) throughout the experiment  
162 did not affect the larval position at death: larvae of these treatments also died at high positions (Fig.  
163 1B) (Gr 3 ( $n = 59$ ) versus Gr 4 ( $n = 58$ ) and Gr  $C_a$  ( $n = 60$ );  $T$ -test = 0.738 and 1.276, respectively; d.f. =  
164 288;  $p = 0.461$  and 0.203, respectively). There was no significant difference between the two replicates  
165 ( $T$ -test = 1.039; d.f. = 288;  $p = 0.300$ ). We conclude that light between 43 and 50 hpi was important to  
166 trigger SeMNPV-induced tree-top disease and light after 50 hpi did not have a measurable influence  
167 on the outcome of tree-top disease.

168 *The direction of light is important for tree-top disease*

169 To determine whether the direction of light was important during the time period determined in assay  
170 1, the behavioural assay was repeated with light applied from below. Two control groups, kept under  
171 a normal light: dark regime (14 L : 10 D), were included, one using light from above ( $C_a$ ) and one using  
172 light from below ( $C_b$ ). Larvae of control group  $C_a$  died at high positions (Fig. 1C) as expected, indicating

173 that infected larvae still reacted to light in this experiment. Larvae of all other treatments died at low  
174 positions (Gr 1 to 4 and C<sub>b</sub> in Fig. 1C), also when receiving light from below during the period  
175 determined in assay 1 as being crucial for the induction of tree-top disease when light was applied  
176 from above (all differences when making comparisons between Gr 1-4 and C<sub>b</sub> are non-significant (*T*-  
177 test < 1.7 and *p* > 0.08 for all comparisons; d.f. = 348, Table S1); Gr C<sub>a</sub> is significantly different from Gr  
178 1-4 and C<sub>b</sub> (*T*-test > 5.9 and *p* < 0.001 for all comparisons; d.f. = 348, Table S1). This finding indicates  
179 that the direction of light during this period (43 to 50 hpi), is crucial and tree-top disease is only  
180 observed if light is applied from above during 43 to 50 hpi. The two replicates of this experiment were  
181 not significantly different from each other (*T*-test = 0.927; d.f. = 348; *p* = 0.355).

#### 182 *Light between 0 and 43 hpi is not needed for tree-top disease*

183 We also studied whether additional light exposure between 0 and 43 hpi was needed to trigger tree-  
184 top disease. Therefore, infected larvae were first kept in darkness until 43 hpi, after which light was  
185 applied from above following a 14 L : 10 D period (Gr 2, Fig. 2). Data showed that infected larvae  
186 exposed to these conditions (Gr 2, Fig. 2B) died at high positions compared to larvae kept in completely  
187 dark conditions throughout the experiment (Gr 1, Fig. 2B; dying at low positions; Gr 2 (n=59) *versus* Gr  
188 1 (n=60); *T*-test = -2.587; d.f. = 175; *p* < 0.01). Moreover, infected larvae exposed to above mentioned  
189 conditions (Gr 2, Fig. 2B) died at similar positions compared to larvae kept under a 14 L : 10 D light  
190 regime throughout the experiment (Gr C<sub>a</sub>, Fig. 2B and 2C; dying at elevated positions; Gr 2 (n=59)  
191 *versus* C<sub>a</sub> (n=60); *T*-test = 1.685; d.f. = 175; *p* = 0.973). The two replicates were not significantly different  
192 (*T*-test = 0.084; d.f. = 175; *p* = 0.933). The experimental data obtained in the third behavioural assay  
193 further suggest that a light stimulus from above is needed during the period from 43 to 50 hpi to  
194 successfully induce tree-top disease, and that light prior to this period does not have a measurable  
195 influence on the outcome of tree-top disease.

#### 196 **DISCUSSION**

197 Baculovirus-induced behavioural changes have important ecological and evolutionary consequences  
198 for both the host and the pathogen. Exciting progress has been made to reveal the underlying  
199 mechanisms. Previously, it has been shown that light applied from above is needed for the induction  
200 of tree-top disease by the baculovirus SeMNPV in *S. exigua* larvae (van Houte et al. 2014; van Houte et  
201 al. 2015). Here, we further investigated the role of light in this process and found that for SeMNPV-  
202 infected third instars light from above is needed between 43 and 50 hpi to trigger tree-top disease,  
203 which occurred between 57 and 67 hpi (Han et al. 2015).

204 Strikingly, light from above was needed between 43 and 50 hpi to induce tree-top disease, but was not  
205 needed during the period when the actual climbing took place (57 to 67 hpi; Han et al. 2015). When  
206 light was provided from above between 43 and 50 hpi, WT-infected larvae climbed to and died at  
207 elevated positions between 57 and 67 hpi, even though light was absent during the period in which  
208 they climbed. Prior to climbing (*i.e.* prior to 57 hpi) all infected larvae stayed at low positions (Han et  
209 al. 2015). Apparently, positive phototaxis was already triggered between 43 and 50 hpi, so prior to the  
210 actual climbing. Molecular pathways that lead to positive phototaxis might be activated in the infected  
211 larvae during this period. Once the pathways for positive phototaxis are activated, infected larvae do  
212 not need light anymore to climb to elevated positions. When light was provided from below in the  
213 same time span (43 to 50 hpi) larvae stayed at the bottom until death (behavioural assay 2). In both  
214 experiments the infected larvae moved towards the direction where the light came from in the  
215 induction period (between 43 and 50 hpi), though during climbing (57 to 67 hpi) they were in the dark.  
216 An alternative explanation is that the larvae somehow ‘remember’ the direction of the light (present  
217 during the trigger period) when they are climbing (during the night when light is absent).

218 Previous studies showed that the *egt* gene from SeMNPV is involved in SeMNPV induced tree-top  
219 disease in *S. exigua* indirectly: most WT-infected larvae climbed to and died at elevated positions  
220 between 57 and 67 hpi when light was provided above. The current experiments suggest that before  
221 the actual climbing, pathways for positive phototaxis have been activated. However, larvae infected

222 with the SeMNPV virus lacking the *egt* gene have been shown to start dying from 43 hpi and most of  
223 these larvae already died before 57 hpi before actual climbing started in WT-infected larvae. Due to  
224 this earlier death, larvae infected with the *egt*-minus virus did not reach the point of climbing, although  
225 the pathways for positive phototaxis might have been activated also in the *egt*-minus virus infected  
226 larvae (Han et al. 2015; Ros et al. 2015).

227 Though phototaxis has been observed and studied in many insect species, the underlying mechanisms  
228 are still not completely understood. In general, insects sense light of certain wavelengths using their  
229 photoreceptors (Castrejon and Rojas, 2010; Yamaguchi and Heisenberg, 2011; Otsuna et al. 2014; Sun  
230 et al. 2014;). Neuron cells can sense the output from photoreceptors and deliver the signal to the  
231 insect's central nervous system (CNS). In the CNS, different pathways might be triggered that finally  
232 lead to the phototactic behaviour. However, the trigger appears to differ among different insect  
233 species. For example, lepidopteran larvae and moths show a strong preference for green and blue light  
234 (520 and 460 nm in wavelength) (Castrejon and Rojas, 2010; Sun et al. 2014), while the fruit fly  
235 *Drosophila melanogaster* prefers light with shorter wavelength, like ultraviolet (UV) light (400 nm in  
236 wavelength) (Fischbach, 1979; Otsuna et al. 2014). Honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) have three spectral  
237 types of photoreceptors, for UV, blue and green light, while *D. melanogaster* has five types of  
238 photoreceptors differing in spectral properties (Yamaguchi and Heisenberg, 2011). A few downstream  
239 genes have been identified to play a role in phototaxis. For example, the *tim* and *per* genes, which  
240 encode components of the circadian clock, are important for phototactic behaviour in *D. melanogaster*  
241 larvae (Keene and Sprecher, 2012). The neurotransmitter serotonin was found to play a role in  
242 phototactic behaviour in honey bees (Yamaguchi and Heisenberg, 2011).

243 Positive phototaxis is not only induced in baculovirus-infected caterpillars, but also in other parasite-  
244 host systems. Parasites may induce positive phototaxis by invading or affecting the CNS of their hosts.  
245 Crickets infected with Gordian worms present strong phototaxis shortly before the maturation of the  
246 Gordian worms. Moreover, the phototaxis is reversible: once the mature Gordian worms are released,

247 the crickets are not attracted to light anymore (Ponton et al. 2011). A comparative proteomic study  
248 revealed that manipulated crickets exhibit higher expression levels of proteins involved in vision  
249 (CRAL\_TRIO), CNS development, neurogenesis, circadian rhythm and neurotransmitter production  
250 (Biron et al. 2006). Positive phototaxis is also observed in amphipods infected with trematodes or  
251 acanthocephalans (both parasitic worms), which stimulate the amphipods (the intermediate host of  
252 the parasitic worms) to move closer to the water surface, where they can be consumed by predators  
253 (forming the subsequent hosts). In the gammarid *Gammarus insensibilis* infected with the trematode  
254 *Microphallus papillorobustus* expression levels of proteins that are involved in serotonin synthesis  
255 (aromatic-L-amino acid decarboxylase) and vision (CRAL\_TRIO) are significantly higher than in non-  
256 infected *G. insensibilis*. It has been shown that in many invertebrates phototactic behaviour is related  
257 with serotonin synthesis alteration (Ponton et al. 2006). Likewise, in the gammarid *Gammarus pulex*  
258 infected with acanthocephalan parasites, serotonin levels are also changed and have been functionally  
259 linked to changed behaviour upon light perception (Tain et al. 2006). The freshwater amphipod  
260 *Hyaella azteca* infected with the acanthocephalan *Corynosoma constrictum* showed a significantly  
261 higher response to green light (500-550 nm) and red light (600-700 nm), but the response to blue light  
262 (400-450 nm) was not changed (Benesh et al. 2005). In *Dolichoderus thoracicus* ants infected with the  
263 fungus *Ophiocordyceps pseudolloydii* and in *Succinea putris* snails infected with the parasitic flatworm  
264 *Leucochloridium paradoxum*, the infected hosts display positive phototactic behaviour (Wesołowska  
265 and Wesołowski, 2014; Chung et al. 2017), however, the underlying mechanisms are still unclear.  
266 Though in the described examples the individual parasites are not phylogenetically related  
267 (representing worms, viruses or fungi), they may make use of similar proximate mechanisms to modify  
268 light perception or the response there to in their hosts. We hypothesize that SeMNPV hijacks host light  
269 perception pathways in the central nervous system (CNS) to induce tree-top disease in *S. exigua* and  
270 that timing of light perception plays a key role in this process. It remains to be elucidated which  
271 spectrum of the light is needed during this period. It is noticeable that light also plays a role in *Bombyx*

272 *mori* nucleopolyhedrovirus (BmNPV)-induced hyperactivity in *B. mori* larvae. Light did not induce  
273 positive phototaxis in infected larvae, since both virus- and mock-infected larvae showed similar levels  
274 of phototaxis. However, light enhanced the amplitude of BmNPV-induced hyperactivity; when light  
275 was present, the induced hyperactivity was more than two fold higher than under dark conditions  
276 (Kamita et al. 2005).

277 Overall we conclude that light perception is required between 43 and 50 hpi to trigger SeMNPV-  
278 induced tree-top disease in third instar *S. exigua* larvae. Pathways leading to positive phototaxis might  
279 be activated during this period, which leads to movement in the direction of the earlier provided light  
280 at a later stage of the infection.

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285

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370 **Figure legends**

371 **Figure 1. Light between 43 and 50 hpi is needed to trigger SeMNPV-induced phototaxis in *Spodoptera***  
372 ***exigua* larvae**

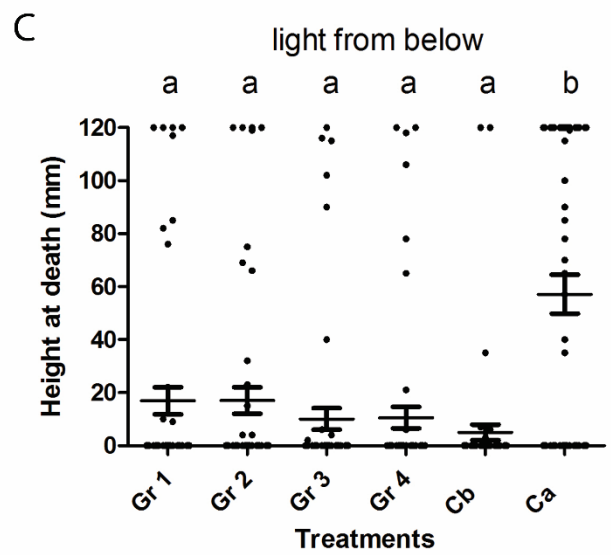
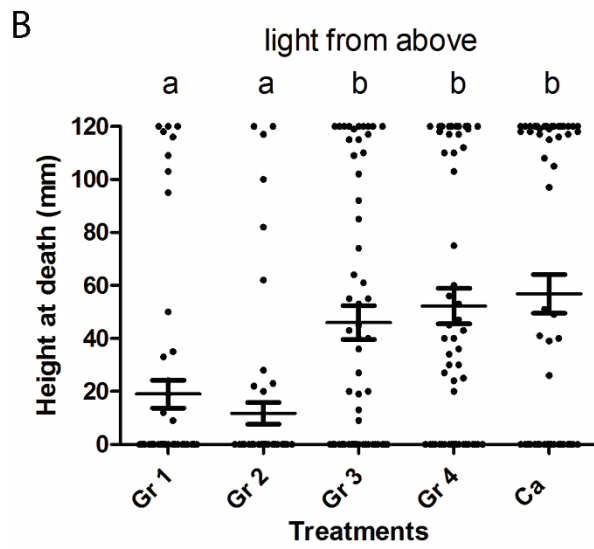
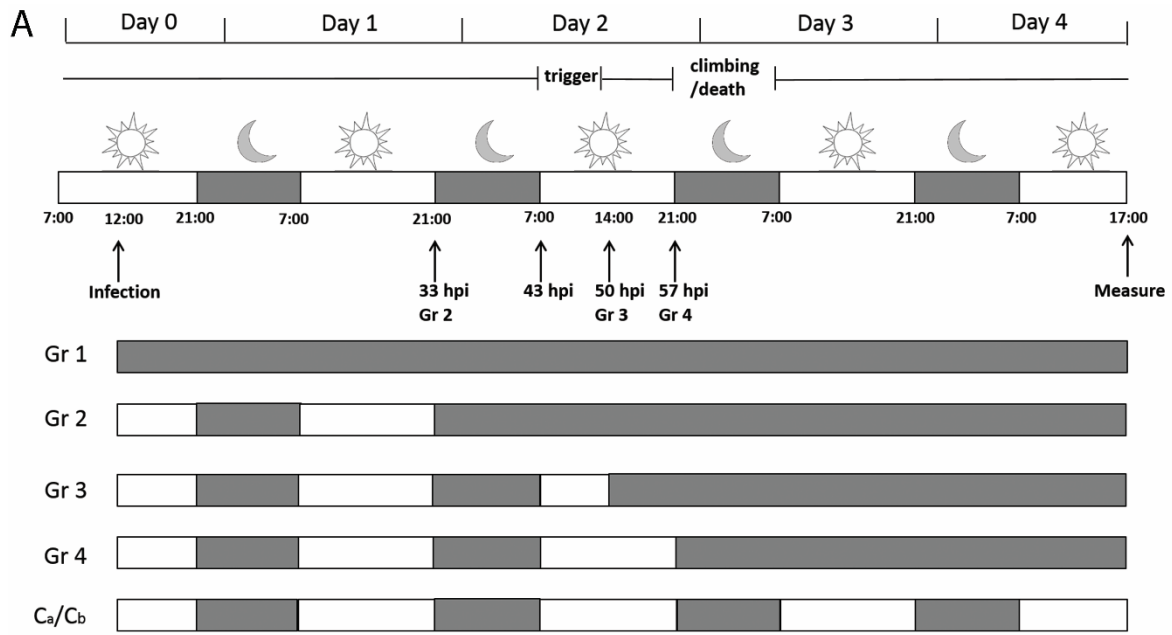
373 (A) Scheme of the experimental set-up with grey representing a dark interval and white representing  
374 a light interval. Vertical arrows indicate the time points at which the infection was done, the different  
375 treatment groups (Gr 2-4) were moved to continuous dark conditions and the measurement of the  
376 final vertical position of larvae was done. For each treatment (Gr 1 – 4, C<sub>a</sub>, C<sub>b</sub>), the dark – light scheme  
377 is indicated. C<sub>a</sub> represents a control with light from above that was included in both behavioural assays.  
378 C<sub>b</sub> represents a control with light from below that was included only in behavioural assay 2. The period  
379 during which the phototaxis was triggered ('trigger') and the period during which the larvae climbed  
380 to elevated positions and subsequently died ('climbing/death') are indicated. (B) Height at death of  
381 larvae of behavioural assay 1 (light provided from above; Gr 1 (n=58), Gr 2 (n=59), Gr 3 (n=59), Gr 4  
382 (n=58), C<sub>a</sub> (n=60)). (C) Height at death of larvae of behavioural assay 2 (light provided from below; Gr  
383 1 (n=59), Gr 2 (n=60), Gr 3 (n=59), Gr 4 (n=60), C<sub>b</sub> (n=58), C<sub>a</sub> (n=59)). Data points represent the height  
384 at death (mm) of individual larvae. Horizontal lines show the mean value of height at death and  
385 whiskers the standard error of the mean. Treatment groups marked with a different letter (a or b) are  
386 significantly different (P > 0.05).

387 **Figure 2. Light exposure between 0 and 43 hours post infection does not affect tree-top disease**

388 (A) Scheme of the experimental set-up with grey representing a dark interval and white representing  
389 a light interval. Vertical arrows indicate the time points at which the infection was done, treatment  
390 group Gr 2 was moved from continuous dark conditions to a normal L : D rhythm and the measurement  
391 of the final vertical position of larvae was done. For each treatment (Gr 1, Gr 2, C<sub>a</sub>) the dark – light  
392 scheme is indicated. C<sub>a</sub> represents a control with light from above. The period during which the  
393 phototaxis was triggered ('trigger') and the period during which the larvae climbed to elevated

394 positions and subsequently died ('climbing/death') are indicated. (B) Height at death of larvae of  
395 behavioural assay 3 (light provided from above; Gr 1 (n=60), Gr 2 (n=59), C<sub>a</sub> (n=60)). Data points  
396 represent the height at death (mm) of individual larvae. Horizontal lines show the mean value of height  
397 at death and whiskers the standard error of the mean. Treatment groups marked with a different letter  
398 (a or b) are significantly different ( $P > 0.05$ ).

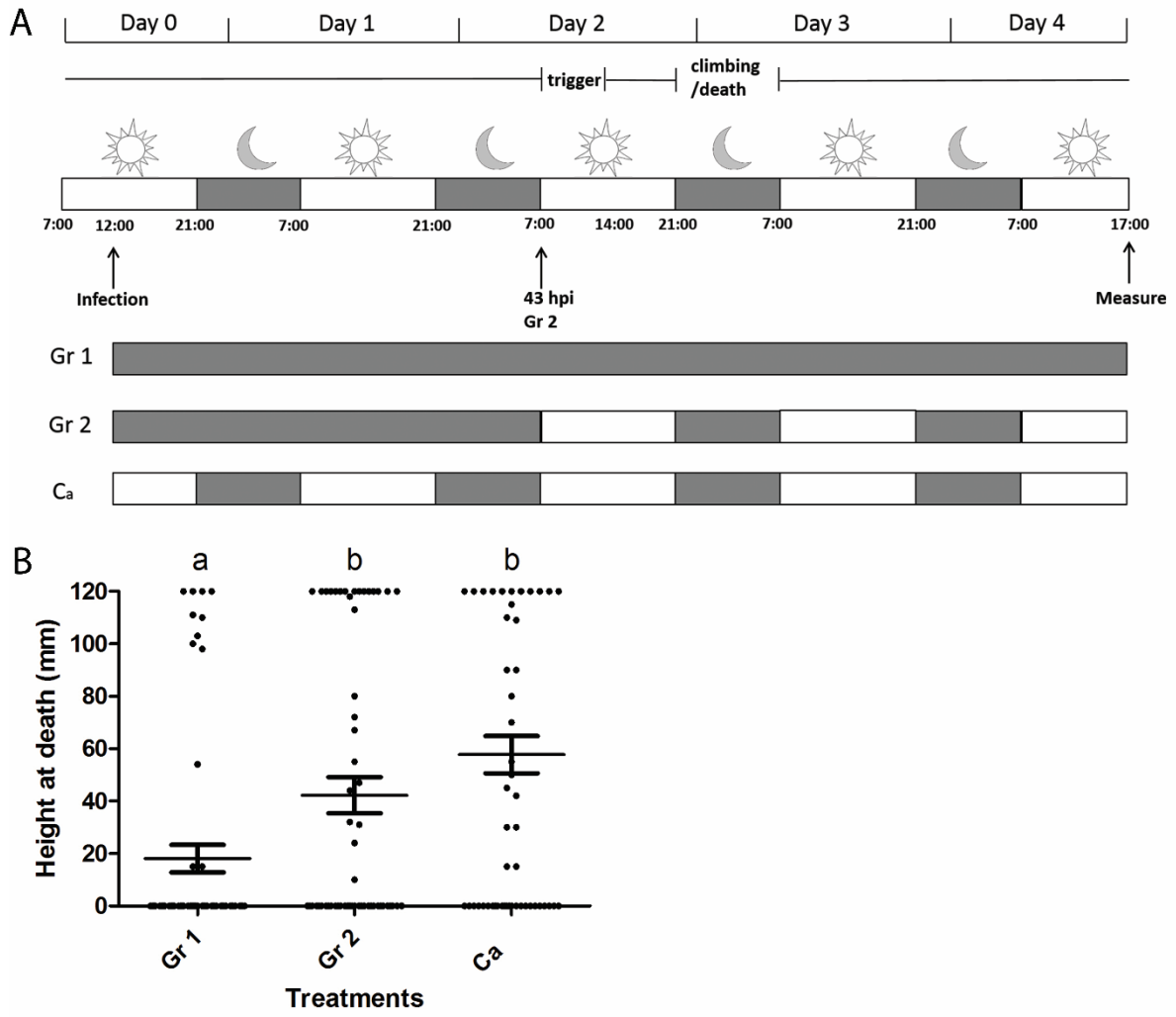
399



400

401 **Figure 1**

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404

405 **Figure 2**

406

407 **Supplementary Table S1. *T*- values and *P*-values of the linear regression model (lm) analysis of the**  
 408 **larval positions at death in behavioural assay 2. Values are given for each comparison of treatments.**  
 409 **N = sample size; d. f. = degrees of freedom.**

	Gr 1	Gr 2	Gr 3	Gr 4	C <sub>b</sub>	C <sub>a</sub>
Gr 1 (N = 59)	---					
Gr 2 (N = 60)	<i>T</i> = 0.822 <i>P</i> = 0.412	---				
Gr 3 (N = 59)	<i>T</i> = 1.012 <i>P</i> = 0.312	<i>T</i> = 0.195 <i>P</i> = 0.846	---			
Gr 4 (N = 60)	<i>T</i> = 0.950 <i>P</i> = 0.343	<i>T</i> = 0.129 <i>P</i> = 0.898	<i>T</i> = 0.067 <i>P</i> = 0.947	---		
C <sub>b</sub> (N = 58)	<i>T</i> = 1.745 <i>P</i> = 0.082	<i>T</i> = 0.934 <i>P</i> = 0.351	<i>T</i> = 0.737 <i>P</i> = 0.461	<i>T</i> = 0.807 <i>P</i> = 0.420	---	
C <sub>a</sub> (N = 59)	<i>T</i> = 5.906 <i>P</i> < 0.001	<i>T</i> = 6.753 <i>P</i> < 0.001	<i>T</i> = 6.918 <i>P</i> < 0.001	<i>T</i> = 6.881 <i>P</i> < 0.001	<i>T</i> = 7.626 <i>P</i> < 0.001	---
d. f. = 348						

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411