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- <sup>1</sup> Floral vibrations by buzz-pollinating bees
- <sup>2</sup> achieve higher frequency, velocity and
- <sup>3</sup> acceleration than flight and defence
- 4 vibrations
- 5 6 David J. Pritchard <sup>1,\*</sup> Mario Vallejo-Marín<sup>1</sup> 7 8 9 <sup>1</sup> Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Stirling. FK9 4LA. Stirling, Scotland, United Kingdom 10 \* Author for correspondence. 11 12 Correspondence: david.pritchard@stir.ac.uk 13 14 Keywords: Bee behaviour; Biomechanics; Biotremology; Bombus; Buzz pollination; Solanum 15

16 Abstract

17 Vibrations play an important role in insect behaviour. In bees, vibrations are used in a variety of 18 contexts including communication, as a warning signal to deter predators and during pollen foraging. 19 However, little is known about how the biomechanical properties of bee vibrations vary across 20 multiple behaviours within a species. In this study, we compared the properties of vibrations 21 produced by Bombus terrestris audax (Hymenoptera: Apidae) workers in three contexts: during 22 flight, during defensive buzzing, and in floral vibrations produced during pollen foraging on two buzz-23 pollinated plants (Solanum, Solanaceae). Using laser vibrometry, we were able to obtain contactless 24 measures of both the frequency and amplitude of the thoracic vibrations of bees across the three 25 behaviours. Despite all three types of vibrations being produced by the same power flight muscles, 26 we found clear differences in the mechanical properties of the vibrations produced in different 27 contexts. Both floral and defensive buzzes had higher frequency and amplitude velocity, 28 acceleration, and displacement than the vibrations produced during flight. Floral vibrations had the 29 highest frequency, amplitude velocity and acceleration of all the behaviours studied. Vibration 30 amplitude, and in particular acceleration, of floral vibrations has been suggested as the key property 31 for removing pollen from buzz-pollinated anthers. By increasing frequency and amplitude velocity 32 and acceleration of their vibrations during vibratory pollen collection, foraging bees may be able to 33 maximise pollen removal from flowers, although their foraging decisions are likely to be influenced 34 by the presumably high cost of producing floral vibrations.

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Keywords: Apidae, bee behaviour, biomechanics, *Bombus*, buzz pollination, energetic costs, flight,
poricidal anthers, *Solanum*.

# 38 Introduction

39 Vibrations play an essential role in the natural behaviour of animals, particularly, among 40 invertebrates. For example, spiders and antlions use vibrations produced by prey during hunting 41 (Guillette et al., 2009; Mencinger-Vračko & Devetak, 2008; Nakata, 2010), and larval leafminers use 42 vibrations to detect and avoid parasitoid wasps (Djemai et al., 2001). Animal vibrations can be 43 transmitted both through the air (sound) and through the underlying substrate (most often plant 44 tissue) as substrate-borne vibrations (Cocroft & Rodríguez, 2005). The substrate-borne component 45 of vibrations can be particularly important in some contexts such as during insect communication because vibrations produced by small animals can be more efficiently transmitted through the 46 47 substrate than through air (i.e. as sound) (Barth et al., 2005; Cocroft and Rodríguez, 2005; Mortimer, 2017). 48

49 Most studies of insect vibrations have focussed on vibrations produced for communication 50 or as a by-product of flight (Hill et al., 2019; Tercel et al., 2018). But insects can use vibrations for 51 much more than communication and locomotion. Among bees, vibrations play a particularly 52 multifaceted role. For example, bees not only use vibrations to communicate with their nest mates 53 (Barth et al., 2005) and as a warning or defence mechanism against potential predators (Hrncir et al. 54 2008; Barth et al., 2005), but also during nest construction (Rosenheim, 1987), and as a foraging tool 55 to harvest pollen from certain flowers (Macior, 1962; Thorp, 2000; Vallejo-Marín, 2019). For 56 example, substrate-borne vibrations are one of the ways in which some bees can rapidly dislodge 57 and collect pollen on flowers with poricidal anthers (anthers that release pollen through small pores 58 or slits; Buchmann, 1983). The ability to use vibrations during pollen harvesting occurs in 59 approximately 58% of all bee (Anthophila) species including 15% of genera in all bee families 60 (Cardinal et al., 2018), and buzz-pollination (pollination using vibrations) is associated with more 61 than 20,000 species of flowering plants (Buchmann, 1983; De Luca & Vallejo-Marín, 2013). Despite 62 the widespread use of vibrations across diverse behavioural contexts, including during buzz

pollination, we still know relatively little about the extent to which vibrational properties vary within
the same species and across behaviours.

65 In bees, the same mechanism that drives the wings during flight is responsible of producing vibrations used during communication, defence and buzz pollination. Vibrations are produced by 66 67 cyclical deformations of the bee's thorax caused by the alternate contraction of dorsal longitudinal 68 and dorso-ventral power flight muscles (Hedenström, 2014). These contractions are not 69 synchronised with nerve impulses, instead bee flight muscles are "stretch-activated", with the 70 stretching of one of the antagonistic pairs of muscles stimulating the contraction of the other. This 71 cycle of stretching and contraction creates a relatively self-sustaining series of cyclical thorax 72 contractions along longitudinal and ventral axes (Dickinson, 2006; Josephson et al., 2000), with nerve 73 impulses mostly working to maintain this cycle or make broad-scale changes such as an increase in 74 power (Gordon & Dickinson, 2006).

75 Despite sharing a common production mechanism (thoracic power flight muscles), flight and 76 non-flight vibrations in bees have clearly different vibrational properties. Non-flight vibrations are 77 produced with the wings folded, effectively uncoupling power flight muscle contraction and 78 wingbeat (King et al., 1996). For a given bee species, non-flight vibrations have higher frequencies 79 than those produced during flight (Barth et al., 2005; De Luca et al., 2019; Hrncir et al., 2008; King & 80 Buchmann, 2003), in part due to reduced drag from the wings as well as increased tension in the 81 thoracic muscles (Hrncir et al., 2008; King et al., 1996). In contrast, non-flight vibrations produced in 82 different contexts are superficially very similar. Both defence and floral vibrations are produced with 83 folded wings and it is not clear to what extent non-flight thoracic vibrations have different properties 84 to one another. Few studies have compared non-flight vibrations produced in different contexts on 85 the same bee species. Hrncir et al. (2008) found that the frequency of vibrations produced by the 86 tropical stingless bee, Melipona quadrifasciata Le Peletier (1836) (Apidae), during defence buzzes is 87 approximately 60% of the frequency of vibrations used to communicate between foragers (350 vs.

487 Hz, respectively). In bumblebees (*Bombus spp.* Lattreille 1802), comparison of two European
species found frequency differences in non-flight vibrations, namely defence and floral buzzes.
However, the direction and size of the difference in frequency between defence and floral buzzes
differed between the two bumblebee species (De Luca et al., 2014). While non-flight vibrations in
bees are a potentially useful system for understanding the evolution and diversification of vibratory
behaviours, clearly, more work is needed to characterise the exact differences between non-flight
vibrations in different contexts.

95 Comparing the properties of vibrations produced on different behavioural contexts is technically challenging. Traditionally, substrate-borne vibrations produced by bees have been 96 97 studied indirectly by recording the airborne component of the vibration using acoustic recorders. 98 Yet, recent work indicates that although frequency components are reliably inferred from either 99 acoustic or substrate-borne measurements, the magnitude of substrate-borne vibrations are poorly 100 correlated with the magnitude of their acoustic component (De Luca et al., 2018). This may be 101 because small invertebrates are poor acoustic transducers (De Luca et al., 2018), a view that is 102 consistent with the fact that most insect communication occurs through a plant substrate, rather 103 than through airborne sound (Cocroft & Rodríguez, 2005). This is one reason why most of the 104 previous work comparing the vibration properties of different bee behaviours has been focused on 105 acoustically measured frequency differences, with relatively few studies attempting to measure both frequency and amplitude (acceleration, velocity or displacement) components (Nieh and Tautz, 106 107 2000; Hrncir et al., 2008). To get a more complete view of how vibrations differ across bee 108 behaviours, it is necessary to capture both frequencies and amplitudes components (Vallejo-Marín, 109 2019). Vibration amplitude can be experimentally measured using vibration transducers such as 110 accelerometers or laser vibrometers (Cocroft & Rodríguez, 2005). A full characterisation of 111 substrate-borne vibrations is particularly important in the context of buzz pollination because 112 biophysical models of poricidal anthers (Buchmann & Hurley, 1978), as well experimental tests with

- artificial buzzes, suggest that vibration amplitude, rather than frequency, is a key determinant of the
- rate of pollen ejection from flowers (De Luca et al., 2013; Rosi-Denadai et al., 2018).
- 115 In this study, we characterised for the first time, the extent to which a single species of
- 116 bumblebee can modify the properties of their vibrations across multiple behaviours. Rather than just
- 117 comparing flight and non-flight vibrations, we used accelerometers and laser vibrometry to directly
- 118 measure the vibrational properties of buzzes produced by bumblebees (*Bombus terrestris ssp.*
- 119 *audax*, (Harris 1776); hereafter *B. audax*) both during flight and in two different non-flight
- 120 behavioural contexts: defence and floral vibrations. In addition, we compare the floral vibrations
- 121 produced by bees on two different buzz-pollinated plant species (Solanum rostratum Dunal and S.
- 122 citrullifolium (A. Braun) Nieuwl., Section Androceras, Solanaceae). Previous work has shown
- 123 conflicting results on the extent to which bumblebees change the vibrations produced during floral
- 124 visitation (floral vibrations), with some studies showing differences between flowers (Switzer and
- 125 Combes, 2017) or with experience (Morgan et al., 2016; Switzer et al., 2019) and others showing
- more limited flexibility (Russell et al., 2016b). However, while other studies of bee vibrations have
- 127 used non-contact methods (laser vibrometry) to look at differences in vibration properties (Conrad
- 128 and Ayasse, 2015; Conrad and Ayasse, 2019), few studies to date have used these methods to
- 129 examine floral vibrations directly on bees (Nunes-Silva et al., 2013). Our study addresses three
- 130 specific questions: 1) What are the main differences in the vibrations produced by bumblebees
- across different behaviours? 2) To what extent floral vibrations produced by the bee depends on the
- 132 species of flower being visited? 3) Do the characteristics of vibrations depend on bees'
- 133 morphological traits such as size?

### 134 Materials and methods

- 135 Study system
- 136 Bees

137 We used two colonies of the buff-tailed bumblebee, Bombus terrestris audax (Koppert, Agralan Ltd, 138 Wiltshire, UK). Each colony had access to *ad libitum* "nectar" solution (Koppert) within the colony. 139 Each colony was attached to a flight arena  $(122 \times 100 \times 37 \text{ cm})$ , illuminated with an LED light panel 140 (59.5 × 59.5 cm, 48 W Daylight; Opus Lighting Technology, Birmingham, UK) and maintained on a 141 12h:12h supplemental light:dark cycle. The ambient temperature was 20-23°C and humidity was 50-142 60% RH. In each arena, bees were also provided with a 1M sucrose solution, ad libitum, from three 143 feeders in each colony, as well as eight inflorescences (four Solanum rostratum, four S. citrullifolium) 144 every two days.

145 Plants

146 We tested floral vibrations on two closely related species from the genus *Solanum* (Solanaceae).

147 Solanum rostratum and Solanum citrullifolium are both nectarless species, which attract and reward

148 pollinators solely with pollen. In common with other Solanum species, S. rostratum and S.

149 *citrullifolium* have poricidal anthers, which requires pollinators to vibrate the anthers to release

pollen. Unlike some other Solanum species, S. rostratum and S. citrullifolium are both

151 heterantherous, with bees primarily focussing their attention on "feeding anthers" presented at the

152 centre of the flower, while a single, rarely visited "pollination anther" deposits pollen on the visiting

bee. *Solanum* species are a classic system for the study of buzz pollination (e.g. Buchmann & Cane,

154 1989; King & Buchmann, 1996), and *S. rostratum* and *S. citrullifolium* have been directly compared in

a previous study which identified apparent difference in the coupling factors of these species

156 (Arroyo-Correa et al., 2019). Vibrations applied to *S. rostratum* show less attenuation than vibrations

- 157 applied to *S. citrullifolium*, making this pair an ideal comparison for the effect of bee-produced
- 158 vibrations on flowers.

159 S. rostratum and S. citrullifolium plants were grown from seed at the University of Stirling 160 research glasshouses, using the method described in Vallejo-Marín et al. (2014). Seeds of S. rostratum were collected in Mexico (20.901°N, 100.705°W; accessions 10s77, 10s81, 10s82) and 161 seeds of S. citrullifolium were obtained from self-fertilised fruits (accession 199) grown from seeds 162 163 obtained from Radboud University's seed collection (accession 894750197). For daily flower 164 provision for bees, inflorescences were placed in water-soaked Ideal Floral Foam (Oasis Floral 165 Products, Washington, UK) in plastic containers. For experiments, we used a single flower, cut 2-3cm 166 below the calyx.

167 Recording of floral vibrations

To facilitate the recording of bee vibrations using laser vibrometry, we tagged individual bees with a small (2mm<sup>2</sup>) piece of reflective tape placed in the dorsal part of the thorax. Bees buzzing on flowers in the flight cages were captured, placed in a freezer at -26°C for seven minutes, and tagged with reflective tape using Loctite UltraControl instant adhesive (Henkel Limited, Winsford, UK). After being at room temperature, bees resumed normal activity after approximately 7-10 minutes and were released back into the colony.

174 At least 24 hours after being tagged, bees were allowed to visit flowers in the arena and a tagged bee which was actively buzzing flower was collected from flowers in the flight cage and 175 176 released onto a single flower of either S. rostratum or S. citrullifolium in the test arena. The flower 177 species were chosen so that each colony received the same number of flowers from each plant 178 species. The vibrations produced by the bee were recorded simultaneously in two ways. First, we 179 measured vibrations produced in the bee's thorax using a laser vibrometer (PDV 100, Polytec, 180 Coventry, UK). Laser vibrometry provides a direct, contactless measure of the vibrations produced by 181 the bee. Vibrations measured with the laser were sampled at a rate of 10240 Hz using a low pass 182 filter of 5Hz, and a maximum velocity range of either 100 mm/s (for bees 1-14) or 500 mm/s (for 183 bees 15-32). The laser vibrometer was placed approximately 20cm away from the flower and aimed

at the reflective tag on the bee's thorax. Second, we used an accelerometer (352C23, 0.2g; PCB
Piezotronics) to record the vibrations transmitted from the bee to the flower (Arroyo-Correa et al.,
2018). The accelerometer was attached to the calyx at the base of the flower being vibrated by the
bee using a 5mm x 0.35mm pin made from an entomological pin (Austerlitz, Size 0) and glued to the
accelerometer with instant adhesive as described in Arroyo-Correa et al. (2018). The accelerometer
and laser were set to register along the same axis of movement.

190 Both laser vibrometer and accelerometer data were simultaneously recorded and time-191 stamped using Data Acquisition System (cRIO model 9040 with the C series module NI 9250; 192 National Instruments, Newbury, UK) using a custom-made LabView (National Instruments) program 193 (available upon request). While the bee buzzed the flower, data were recorded during two seconds 194 at a sampling rate of 10240 Hz and saved to a file. After collecting 5-10 buzzes for each bee, the bee 195 was caught in a 30mL plastic container (201150; Greiner, Gloucestershire, UK), and euthanised by 196 being placed in -26 freezer for 48 hours. In total, we collected data for 16 bees from two colonies, eight on each flower species. For each bee we recorded analysed an average of 6.13 buzzes (N = 98 197 198 buzzes from 16 bees).

**199** Recording of defence and flight vibrations

For the recording of flight and defence buzzes bees were selected at random from the flight box. As for the flower buzzing, bees were immobilised by being placed in the freezer for seven minutes. In addition to gluing a 2mm<sup>2</sup> reflective tag to the scutum, immobile bees were also tethered to the apparatus for recording defence and flight buzzes, similar to that used by Hrncir et al. (2008). The neck of the bee was held by a loop of fine nylon string threaded through a needle and attached to a syringe secured by a clamp (Figure 1). After 7-10 minutes, the tethered bee had returned to regular activity levels and we continued with data collection.

207 To record both flight and defence buzzes, the laser vibrometer was placed above the bee 208 and aimed at the tag on the bee's thorax. The laser beam was perpendicular to the platform on

209 which the bee was tethered. Defence and flight vibrations measured with the laser were sampled at 210 a rate of 10240 Hz using a low pass filter of 5Hz, and a maximum velocity range of 500 mm/s. To 211 induce defence buzzes, the tethered bees were gently squeezed along the sides using featherweight 212 forceps. To record flight buzzes, the platform underneath the tethered bee fell away inducing the 213 bee to start flight activity (Hrncir et al., 2008). As before, vibration data was recorded through the 214 cRIO data acquisition system using a custom LabVIEW program, which collected two seconds of data 215 at a time at a sampling rate of 10240 Hz, with a low pass filter of 5Hz and a velocity range of 500 216 mm/s. Flight and defence buzzes were recorded from 20 bees in total, with defence and flight buzzes 217 captured from all bees. To avoid order effects, 10 of the bees had defence buzzes collected first and 218 10 had flight collected first. Following recording, tethered bees were immobilised again by being 219 placed in the freezer, removed from the tether, placed in a plastic container, and euthanised in the -220 26°C freezer. For each bee, we analysed an average of 5.6 flight vibrations (n = 112 vibrations from 221 20 bees) and 6.8 defence buzzes (n = 136 from 20 bees).

222 Bee size

Bee size was approximated using intertegular distance (ITD), the distance between the tegulae at the
base of the wings (Cane, 1987). We measured ITD using a digital photograph of euthanised bees

taken with a dissecting microscope (MZ6, Leica Microsystems, Milton Keynes, UK) (Figure S1), and

analysed with the *FIJI* distribution of *ImageJ* (Schindelin et al., 2012).

227 Data Analysis

228 Analysing vibrations

We used a section of each recorded vibration for analysis (Figure 2). For floral buzzes, we selected a section of each recording that successfully captured both laser and accelerometer sensors. The sensor data (time series with voltage units) were converted from voltage to either velocity (laser) or acceleration (accelerometer) using the factory-provided conversion factors for each sensor. We zero-centred the data by subtracting the mean amplitude from each value and applied an 80-5000

234 Hz band-pass filter and a Hamming window (window length = 512), using the *fir* function in the R235 package seewave (Sueur et al., 2008). The acceleration data were converted to velocity by numerical 236 integration using the cumtrapz function in the pracma package (Borchers, 2019), and the band-pass 237 filter was applied again. The fundamental frequency of the analysed vibration was obtained with the 238 fund function, calculated over the entire sample and setting a maximum frequency to 1000 Hz. Peak 239 amplitude velocity for each vibration segment was calculated from the amplitude envelope 240 calculated using the env function with a mean sliding window of length 2 and an overlap of 75%. All 241 analyses were done in *R* version 3.6.0 (R Core Team, 2019) 242 Transmission of bee vibrations through flowers 243 To quantify the extent to which the vibrations produced by bees differ from those measured in the

244 flower itself, we calculated King's coupling factor (King, 1993). The bee's coupling factor ( $K_{bee}$ ) was 245 calculated by dividing the root mean squared (RMS) amplitude velocity of the vibration produced by 246 the bee by the RMS amplitude velocity recorded by the accelerometer placed in the flower's calyx 247 (Arroyo-Correa et al. 2019). We also calculated King's coupling for vibrations produced by a mechanical calibrated shaker (Handheld shaker model 394C06, PCB Piezotronics). The calibrated 248 shaker produces a vibration of constant properties (frequency = 159.2Hz, RMS amplitude velocity = 249 250 9.8 mm s<sup>-1</sup>) that are transmitted to a small metal plate at one end of the instrument. The metal plate 251 of the calibrated shaker was firmly pushed against the feeding anthers of the flower, and we 252 recorded four to five samples of two seconds each using the data acquisition system described 253 above (Analysing Vibrations). For each flower, we selected one clean recording, converted voltage to 254 velocity as described above, and obtained King's coupling factor for the shaker (Kshaker) using the ratio between expected and observed RMS velocity. Measuring both K<sub>bee</sub> and K<sub>shaker</sub> allowed us to 255 compare the difference in the efficiency with which a bee and a mechanical shaker transmit 256 257 vibrations to the flower.

258 Statistical analyses

259 To compare the properties of vibrations in different contexts we used linear mixed effect models 260 using either peak velocity or fundamental frequency as response variables, buzz type 261 (flight/defence/floral) and intertegular distance as explanatory variables, and bee identity as a 262 random effect. In addition to peak velocity and frequency, which were measured directly, we also 263 used these measures to derive the displacement amplitude (in mm) and acceleration (in mm/s<sup>2</sup>) of 264 the vibration. As with velocity, we analysed the peak recordings of each of these measures with 265 linear mixed effect models, with buzz type and intertegular distance as explanatory variables and 266 bee identity as a random effect. To compare the properties of floral vibrations on different Solanum species, we employed linear mixed effect models, using either laser-recorded peak velocity, laser-267 268 recorded fundamental frequency, accelerometer-recorded peak velocity or accelerometer-recorded 269 fundamental frequency as response variables, flower species and intertegular distance as 270 explanatory variables, and bee identity as a random effect. Finally, to compare the effect of flower 271 species and recording method on coupling factors, we used a linear mixed effect model with 272 coupling factor as a response variable, flower species, intertegular distance, and vibration method 273 (bee vs artificial) as explanatory variables, and bee ID as a random effect. All analyses were 274 performed using Ime4 (Bates et al., 2015) to estimate parameters and ImerTest (Kuznetsova et al., 275 2017) to assess statistical significance. 276 Ethical approval

These experiments were approved by the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board of the Universityof Stirling.

279 Data availability

280 Data and code will be deposited in Dryad with information given in the final manuscript.

## 281 Results

282 Comparison of buzzes produced in different behavioural contexts

283 The vibrations produced during flight, defence and pollen extraction differ significantly in properties 284 including fundamental frequency and peak amplitude velocity (Table 1). The peak amplitude velocity 285 of floral buzzes (262.85 ± 9.52 mm/s) was significantly higher than both defence (194.85 ± 6.12 286 mm/s) and flight buzzes (57.29 ± 1.28 mm/s; Figure 3A, Table 1). We found no significant effect of 287 bee size on peak amplitude velocity (Table 1). Floral buzzes also had significantly higher frequencies 288 (313.09 ± 2.63 Hz) than both defence (236.32 ± 4.29 Hz) and flight buzzes (136.95 ± 1.73 Hz) (Figure 289 3B). We also detected an interaction between bee size and buzz type with larger bees achieving 290 higher frequency defence buzzes and lower frequency flower and flight buzzes than smaller bees 291 (Table 2). The differences in peak amplitude velocity across the three behaviours observed here 292 extended to peak amplitude acceleration, with floral buzzes achieving higher accelerations (517.77m 293  $s^{-2} \pm 19.40$ ), than defence (297.41m  $s^{-2} \pm 11.96$ ), and flight vibrations (49.43 m  $s^{-2} \pm 1.34$ ) (Figure 3D). 294 In contrast, the peak amplitude displacement of floral ( $0.27 \text{ mm} \pm 0.009$ ) and defence buzzes (0.27295 mm  $\pm$  0.007) were similar, although both greater than the displacement amplitude of flight 296 vibrations (0.14 mm  $\pm$  0.005) (Figure 3C).

297 Floral buzzes

298 Our analyses of the vibrations produced by bees while visiting flowers (floral buzzes) shows that only 299 some of the properties of these vibrations depend on whether they are recorded on the bee or on 300 the flower (Figure 4). The magnitude of vibrations recorded directly on the bee had considerably 301 higher peak velocity amplitudes (273.56 ± 12.49 and 247.34 ± 14.53 mm/s for *S. rostratum* and *S.* 302 citrullifolium respectively) than those vibrations measured on the flower (36.61  $\pm$  2.30 and 19.20  $\pm$ 303 1.03 mm/s for S. rostratum and S. citrullifolium, respectively; Figure 5A, Table 2). In contrast, the 304 fundamental frequency of the floral vibrations was similar whether recorded directly from the bee (313.16 Hz ± 2.86 and 312.09 Hz ± 4.99 Hz for S. rostratum and S. citrullifolium, respectively) or 305

indirectly via the accelerometer on the flower (312.70 Hz  $\pm$  2.92 and 313.16 Hz  $\pm$  4.81 for S.

307 *rostratum* and *S. citrullifolium,* respectively; Figure 5B, Table 2). Interestingly, we observed that

308 vibrations measured on the bee contained more harmonics (*S. citrullifolium*: 10.75 ± 0.38; *S.* 

309 *rostratum*: 11.34 ± 0.35) than those observed on vibrations measured on the flower (*S. citrullifolium*:

310 3.65 ± 0.27; *S. rostratum*: 2.57 ± 0.20) (Figure 4).

Plant species did not significantly affect the frequency or peak amplitude velocity of floral vibrations (but see section *Transmission of vibrations through flowers* for differences in the transmission of vibrations from bee to flower in the two *Solanum* species). Bee size (intertegular distance) was negatively associated with fundamental frequency of floral vibrations (Figure 5C), while bee size had no effect on their peak amplitude velocity (Table 2). We found no statistically significant interaction between bee size and plant species on either frequency or peak amplitude velocity of floral vibrations.

318 Transmission of vibrations through flowers

319 To analyse the effect of plant species on the transmission of floral vibrations through the flower, we compared King's coupling factor (K, the ratio of vibration magnitude produced to vibration received) 320 for the two Solanum species. We found that S. rostratum had a significantly lower coupling factor 321 322  $(K_{bee} = 5.64 \pm 0.61, K_{shaker} = 5.95 \pm 1.77; \text{ mean } \pm \text{SE}) \text{ than } S. citrullifolium (K_{bee} = 9.92 \pm 0.97, K_{shaker} = 5.95 \pm 1.77; \text{ mean } \pm \text{SE}) \text{ than } S. citrullifolium (K_{bee} = 9.92 \pm 0.97, K_{shaker} = 5.95 \pm 1.77; \text{ mean } \pm \text{SE}) \text{ than } S. citrullifolium (K_{bee} = 9.92 \pm 0.97, K_{shaker} = 5.95 \pm 1.77; \text{ mean } \pm \text{SE}) \text{ than } S. citrullifolium (K_{bee} = 9.92 \pm 0.97, K_{shaker} = 5.95 \pm 1.77; \text{ mean } \pm \text{SE}) \text{ than } S. citrullifolium (K_{bee} = 9.92 \pm 0.97, K_{shaker} = 5.95 \pm 1.77; \text{ mean } \pm \text{SE}) \text{ than } S. citrullifolium (K_{bee} = 9.92 \pm 0.97, K_{shaker} = 5.95 \pm 1.77; \text{ mean } \pm \text{SE}) \text{ than } S. citrullifolium (K_{bee} = 9.92 \pm 0.97, K_{shaker} = 5.95 \pm 1.77; \text{ mean } \pm \text{SE}) \text{ than } S. citrullifolium (K_{bee} = 9.92 \pm 0.97, K_{shaker} = 5.95 \pm 1.77; \text{ mean } \pm \text{SE}) \text{ than } S. citrullifolium (K_{bee} = 9.92 \pm 0.97, K_{shaker} = 5.95 \pm 1.77; \text{ mean } \pm \text{SE}) \text{ than } S. citrullifolium (K_{bee} = 9.92 \pm 0.97, K_{shaker} = 5.95 \pm 1.77; \text{ mean } \pm \text{SE}) \text{ than } S. citrullifolium (K_{bee} = 9.92 \pm 0.97, K_{shaker} = 5.95 \pm 1.77; \text{ mean } \pm \text{SE}) \text{ than } S. citrullifolium (K_{bee} = 9.92 \pm 0.97, K_{shaker} = 5.95 \pm 1.77; \text{ mean } \pm \text{SE}) \text{ than } S. citrullifolium (K_{bee} = 9.92 \pm 0.97, K_{shaker} = 5.95 \pm 1.77; \text{ mean } \pm 1$ 323 8.93 ± 1.97; Table 3, Figure 6). Our analysis showed no difference within plant species between 324 coupling factors calculated from either bee floral buzzes ( $K_{bee}$ ) or synthetic vibrations applied with the calibrated shaker ( $K_{shaker}$ ) (Table 3), although  $K_{bee}$  is less variable than  $K_{shaker}$  (Figure 6). We did not 325 326 find an effect of bee size on coupling factor (Table 3).

## 327 Discussion

Bumblebees and other buzz-pollinating bees present a unique opportunity for research on insect
vibrations. In addition to producing vibrations during locomotion and as a signal to predators or

330 conspecifics, the two forms of thoracic vibrations most commonly studied in bees and other insects, 331 buzz-pollinating bees also use vibrations to forage. While the posture of bees during floral buzzes 332 and defence buzzes are very similar, with both requiring the wings folded back over the body, the 333 functions of these two buzzes are very different, making them a useful comparison for 334 understanding how function might influence the properties of bee vibrations. In this study we directly compared these different types of vibrations within a single species of bumblebee, not only 335 336 comparing flight and non-flight vibrations, but also characterising different types of non-flight 337 vibrations. Our results show clear differences in biomechanical properties of defence and floral 338 buzzing, as well as differences between these vibrations and those produced during flight. In 339 addition to differences between different behaviours, we also found that the species of plant being 340 vibrated and the size of the bee, affected the properties of the floral vibrations experienced by 341 plants.

342 Floral vibrations and bee size

Our results are consistent with previous work showing that plant species differ in their transmission 343 344 of floral vibrations (King 1993; Arroyo-Correa et al., 2019). Between the two studied plant species, 345 we found that Solanum rostratum is better at transmitting vibrations applied on the anthers to other parts of the flower than S. citrullifolium, as shown by its lower coupling factor (cf. Arroyo-Correa et 346 al., 2019). Interestingly, the coupling factor calculated using synthetic vibrations applied with a metal 347 348 plate and the one calculated using vibrations applied by live bees were similar, suggesting that fine floral manipulation by the bee during buzzing has little effect on the vibrations transmitted to other 349 350 parts of the flower. Further analyses of the biomechanical properties of flowers are required to 351 determine the mechanism responsible for the different coupling factors observed here and in 352 previous studies.

353 We found little evidence that the magnitude of floral, flight and defence buzzes can be 354 explained by the range of bee size variation observed within a single species of bumblebee. In

355 contrast, bee size was negatively associated with frequency of floral and flight buzzes but positively 356 with defence buzzes. The frequency of flight vibrations in bees is usually negatively associated with 357 size both within (this study) and across species (De Luca et al., 2019). For floral vibrations, the 358 association between frequency and size seems to vary (reviewed in De Luca et al., 2019), ranging 359 from negative, as in our study on B. terrestris audax, to positive (Arroyo-Correa et al. 2019) to no 360 detectable relationship both within species (De Luca et al., 2013; De Luca et al. 2014, Nunes et al. 361 2013) and across multiple species (De Luca et al., 2019; Rosi-Denadai et al., 2018). Moreover, the 362 relationship between the frequency of floral buzzes and bee size within species may further depend 363 on the metric of bee size used (Corbet & Huang, 2014; Switzer & Combes, 2017). Taken together this 364 body of work suggests that differences in size are not sufficient to explain variation in floral buzzes 365 during buzz pollination.

#### **366** Differences among buzz types

367 We found that bumblebees vibrating flowers produce higher accelerations than in other behaviours, 368 and much higher than previously thought. The floral vibrations measured in this experiment were on 369 average 500 m/s<sup>2</sup>, more than 2-3 times what Arroyo Correa et al. (2019) and King (1993) calculated 370 after measuring floral buzzing from the plant and correcting with the corresponding coupling factor. 371 Despite this, our measurements for frequency and velocity, from which acceleration was calculated, 372 were consistent with those found by other studies looking at flying, defence buzzing, and flower 373 buzzing bees (Nunes-Silva et al., 2003, King 1993). Floral buzzes appear to be characterised by higher 374 accelerations, velocities, and frequencies, than defence buzzes. And both floral and defence buzzes 375 have higher accelerations, velocities, displacement amplitude and frequencies, than are produced 376 during flight. The key question raised by our results, then, is why are the properties of floral, defence 377 and flight vibrations so different to one another? This question can be addressed in two ways: 1) by 378 considering how the mechanisms underlying these vibrations might differ across behaviours; and 2) 379 how the function of the behaviour might select for particular vibration properties.

380 Mechanisms of bee vibrations

381 All of the vibrations we measured in this study were produced by contractions of the dorsal 382 longitudinal and dorso-ventral flight muscles in the thorax. The fact that these vibrations all share a 383 common mechanisms could mean that something other than the muscles might be responsible for 384 the differences we observed. One early suggestion was whether the decoupling of the wings from 385 the flight muscles during non-flight vibrations (defence, floral buzzes) changed the resonant 386 properties of the thorax and led to higher frequencies. It is plausible that the deployment of the 387 wings could lower the frequency of the vibrations, wings produce drag and inertia, which is one 388 reason why insects with larger wing have a lower wingbeat frequency (e.g. Greenewalt, 1962; Joos 389 et al., 1991). When insect wings are cut shorter the frequency of flight increases (Hrncir et al., 2008; 390 Roeder, 1951). While wing deployment can explain the different between flight and non-flight 391 vibrations, it cannot explain the differences between the two non-flight vibrations (floral and 392 defence buzzes), where the wings remained folded and the mass of the system remains unchanged.

393 Instead of the mechanical effect of the wings, differences between non-flight vibrations 394 could be the result of differences in muscle activity, either in terms of increasing muscle power or by 395 changing the stiffness and resonant properties of the thorax. Although bumblebee flight muscles are 396 stretch activated, and so do not contract in time with motor neuron firing, studies of similar muscles 397 in Drosophila show that increasing the frequency of firing increases the Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration in the 398 flight muscles, resulting in more powerful contractions(Dickinson et al., 1998; Gordon & Dickinson, 2006; Lehmann & Bartussek, 2017; Wang et al., 2011). Bees could also use other muscles to stiffen 399 400 the thorax, changing its resonant properties, altering the frequency at which the cycle of stretch-401 activated contractions reaches equilibrium (Nachtigall & Wilson, 1967). Although these mechanisms 402 have yet to be studied in bees, neurophysiological studies of bee flight muscles have found 403 differences between flight and non-flight vibrations (Esch & Goller, 1991; King et al., 1996), which 404 might also explain differences between non-flight vibrations. During flight, both the dorso-ventral 405 and dorsal longitudinal muscles sets are stimulated equally, whereas during defensive buzzes the

406 dorsal longitudinal muscles are stimulated at twice the rate as the dorso-ventral muscles (King et al. 407 1996). If, for example, the increased difference in activation between the flight muscles sets is 408 responsible for the increased frequency of non-flight vibrations, then we might expect the difference 409 in excitation between the muscle sets to be even more extreme during floral buzzes than during 410 defence buzzes. By comparing the mechanisms underlying floral buzzes, defence buzzes, and flight, 411 in this way, we can begin to understand how bees use changes in muscular activity and associated 412 shifts in the resonant properties of the bee's body, to adjust the mechanical properties of their 413 vibrations.

414 Function of bee vibrations

415 In addition to considering differences in the actions of the muscles, another approach to thinking 416 about why the muscles produce vibrations with these particular properties is to consider how what 417 properties might best serve these functions. In vibratory communication, for example, the 418 properties of the signalling environment, such as the degree of frequency filtering, determine the 419 "best" vibratory properties to transmit information from producer to receiver (Cocroft & Rodríguez, 420 2005). Similar factors could influence the "best" properties for defence buzzes. Like the vibratory 421 signals studied in other insect species, the function of a defence buzz is to transmit information from 422 the producer (the bee) to a receiver (the predator). This information is effective; defence or alarm 423 sounds produced by insects, including bumblebees, have been shown to reduce or slow down 424 predator attacks (Masters, 1979; Moore & Hassall, 2016). The effectiveness of defence buzzes is 425 likely affected by the properties of the vibration itself. Although, in our experiment, we found that 426 defence buzzes were on average of lower frequency, peak amplitude velocity and peak amplitude 427 acceleration than floral buzzes, these properties do not correlate with what is likely a more 428 important property of a warning signal: volume (De Luca et al., 2018). A previous comparison of the 429 acoustic properties of defence and floral buzzes found that defence buzzes were significantly louder 430 than floral buzzes (De Luca et al., 2014), and it is possible that the lower frequency or amplitude of 431 the bee's vibrations during defence buzzing might actually increase the perceived volume of the buzz

432 by predators. A lower frequency and velocity vibration may also be beneficial for the bee as it might 433 be less energetically costly than the higher frequency and velocity floral buzz. Although the costs of 434 buzzing by bees have only been measured for a handful of behaviours (Kammer & Heinrich, 1974; 435 Heinrich, 1975), increasing the frequency and amplitude of vibrations could carry a significant cost. 436 For instance, in the carpenter bee, Xylocopa varipuncta Patton, increases in the frequency and 437 amplitude of their wingbeats when flying in less dense gases, are associated with increases in their 438 metabolic rate by over a third (Roberts et al., 2004). By using lower frequency and velocity 439 vibrations, bumblebees might be able to perform defence buzzes for longer, increasing their 440 effectiveness against predators.

441 Unlike defence buzzes, the primary function of floral buzzes is not to transmit information to 442 receivers but to shake pollen loose from flowers. Pollen is essential for larval nutrition (Westerkamp, 443 1996), and bumblebees possess many specialisations to assist in pollen collection, from 444 morphological features such as corbiculae (Thorp, 1979), to behaviour specialisations, including 445 optimising pollen collection (Rasheed & Harder, 1997), rejecting flowers that appear empty of pollen 446 (Buchmann & Cane, 1989; Harder, 1990), and modifying their buzzes in response to the presence or 447 absence of pollen (Russell et al., 2016; Switzer et al., 2019). It is possible that the properties of floral 448 buzzes are also tuned to maximise the pollen collected from poricidal anthers. If that was the case, 449 we would expect the properties that defined floral buzzes in this study, high frequency, velocity, and 450 acceleration, to correlate with the vibration properties which release the most pollen. Studies with 451 artificial shakers have subjected buzz-pollinated flowers to a broad array of vibrations to determine 452 what kinds of vibration release the most pollen (De Luca et al., 2013; Harder & Barclay, 1994; Rosi-453 Denadai et al., 2018). Although the frequency of floral buzzes appears very consistent across studies, 454 frequency does not appear to determine how much pollen is released from anthers. Instead, as we 455 observed, higher frequencies may result in higher velocities and accelerations, and it is these 456 properties which most determine how much pollen an anther releases (De Luca et al., 2013; Rosi-457 Denadai et al., 2018). The effect of increasing the velocity or acceleration of floral buzzes on pollen

458 release can be dramatic. De Luca et al. (2013) for example, found that for a floral buzz lasting for one 459 second, doubling the velocity of the buzz led to four times as much pollen being released. Rosi-460 Denadai et al. (2018) found a similar effect for acceleration – vibrations with a similar acceleration to the floral buzzes we recorded (500 m/s<sup>2</sup>) released more than three times as much pollen as 461 462 vibrations matching the flight vibrations we recorded (100 m/s<sup>2</sup>), and twice as much as vibrations 463 matching the defence buzzes (300 m/s<sup>2</sup>). The accelerations we recorded from floral buzzes, 464 therefore, are what might be expected from vibrations tuned to maximise pollen release. Producing 465 high acceleration floral buzzes, however, is likely to have come with a cost. Although it is not clear 466 exactly how costly these floral buzzes might be, as no-one has yet measured the metabolic cost of 467 floral buzzing, it has been suggested that bees work to maximise the efficiency of their pollen 468 collection (Rasheed & Harder, 1997). Their foraging decisions are therefore not just based on 469 maximising the pollen their collect, but also based on the potential cost. If floral buzzing exerts a 470 significant cost on bees, this cost might play an important role in their decisions about where and 471 when to forage on buzz-pollinated flowers (Stephens, 2008).

472 Conclusion

- 473 Our results, demonstrate clear differences between the vibrations produced by bumblebees in
- 474 different contexts. In addition to the expected differences between flight and non-flight vibrations
- 475 (De Luca et al. 2019), which can be partly attributed to wing deployment and different postures
- 476 resulting in physical differences in drag and resonance, we also found equally sizable differences
- 477 between floral and defence vibrations, in which the wings remained undeployed and posture is
- 478 similar. These differences between non-flight vibrations open up larger questions about the
- 479 mechanisms and evolution of insect vibrations. Currently the mechanisms which control the
- 480 properties of thoracic vibrations have only been studied in a handful of contexts (Esch & Goller,
- 481 1991; King et al., 1996), with most of what we know coming from studies of flight control in
- 482 Drosophila (Lehmann & Bartussek, 2017; Lindsay et al., 2017). The vibrations that individual

483 bumblebees produce in different contexts exhibit stark but reliable differences in their properties, 484 providing a model to better understand how individual insects control the properties of the 485 vibrations they produce. By identifying homologous mechanisms as well as outlining possible 486 constraints on how insect vibrations respond to selection, investigating the mechanisms of 487 bumblebee vibrations can also tell us more about how these behaviours evolve. But to understand 488 how selection might have acted on these vibrations, it is also necessary to examine how bees use 489 these vibrations for their particular functions. The biomechanical properties of a vibration might only 490 be part of what makes it effective. Other behaviours can increase the effectiveness of a particular 491 vibration by increasing the salience or memorability of a signal, such as when animals combine 492 multiple modalities into a signal (Rowe, 1999), or by modifying the effects of the vibrations, such 493 when tree crickets build acoustic baffles to amplify the volume of their mating calls (Mhatre et al., 494 2017). During floral buzzing, bees do not simply applying vibrations like the artificial shakers used to 495 study pollen release. Instead, bees need to learn to handle flowers correctly, and work to get in 496 position before starting buzzing (Laverty, 1980; Macior, 1964; Russell et al., 2016). How bees handle 497 flowers, where they bite anthers, and how they position themselves as they vibrate, could all 498 influence how the high acceleration vibrations we recorded are applied to the flower and result in 499 pollen ejection. The next step for understanding why bumblebees, and other insects, produce the 500 vibrations they do, is to understand how other behaviours work alongside vibrations to serve their 501 function.

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# 689 Tables

**Table 1.** Analysis of bee size (intertegular distance) and behavioural context on the properties of thoracic vibrations measured with a laser vibrometer. The parameter estimates and standard errors were calculated from a linear mixed effect model with bee identity as a random factor. *P*-values for each explanatory variable were calculated using a Type III analysis of variance with Satterthwaite's estimation of degrees of freedom. Statistically significant values are in bold.

Response variable	Parameter	Estimate	SE	P-value
Peak Amplitude Velocity (mm/s)	Intercept (Buzz Type: Flight)	165.71	94.16	
	Intertegular distance	-24.63	21.72	0.27
	Buzz Type			< 0.001
	Defence	132.68	8.54	
	Floral	207.65	14.53.	
Fundamental Frequency (Hz)	Intercept (Buzz Type: Flight)	200.93	70.89	
	Intertegular distance	-14.53	16.36	0.38
	Buzz Type			< 0.001
	Defence	102.93	3.38	
	Floral	177.70	10.50	
	Buzz Type*Intertegular distance			0.002
Displacement (mm)	Intercept (Buzz Type: Flight)	0.24	0.11	
	Intertegular distance	-0.022	0.026	0.40
	Buzz Type			< 0.001
	Defence	0.11	0.011	
	Floral	0.13	0.017	
Acceleration (m/s <sup>2</sup> )	Intercept (Buzz Type: Flight)	358.32	199.45	
	Intertegular distance	-71.09	46.01	0.13
	Buzz Type			< 0.001
	Defence	248.57	16.82	
	Floral	479.57	30.57	

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697	Table 2. Analysis of bee size (intertegular distance), plant species, and recording location on the
698	properties of floral vibrations. Vibrations were recorded on S. citrullifolium and S. rostratum, both
699	directly on the bee's thorax using a laser vibrometer and on the flower using an accelerometer. The
700	parameter estimates and standard errors were calculated from a linear mixed effect model with bee
701	identity as a random factor. P-values for each explanatory variable were calculated using a Type III
702	analysis of variance with Satterthwaite's estimation of degrees of freedom. Statistically significant
703	values are in bold.

704	Response variable	Variable	Estimate	SE	P-value
	Peak Amplitude Velocity (mm/s)	Intercept (Plant: <i>S. citrullifolium,</i> Location: Bee)	312.06	74.43	
		Intertegular distance	-13.74	16.31	0.42
		Plant species: S. rostratum	22.22	12.95	0.11
		Location: Flower	-233.35	9.30	<0.001
	Fundamental Frequency (Hz)	Intercept (Plant: <i>S. citrullifolium,</i> Location: Bee)	462.66	60.83	
		Intertegular distance	-33.54	13.36	0.027
		Plant species: S. rostratum	4.40	10.12	0.67
		Location: Flower	-0.20	2.07	0.92

**Table 3.** Effect of bee size (intertegular distance distance), flower species, and vibration method on
the magnitude of King's Coupling Factor. Vibrations were applied to *S. citrullifolium* and *S. rostratum*,
either by the bee (bee) or by pressing a calibrated shaker against the flower (shaker). The parameter
estimates and standard errors were calculated from a linear mixed effect model with bee identity as
a random factor. P-values for each explanatory variable were calculated using a Type III analysis of
variance with Satterthwaite's method. Statistically significant values are in bold.

Response	Variable	Estimate	SE	Р
<b>Coupling Factor</b>	Intercept			
	(Flower: S. citrullifolium + Vibration source:	14.26	5.92	
	Shaker)			
	Intertegular distance	-0.89	1.29	0.51
	Flower species			0.002
	S. rostratum	-4.04	1.03	
	Vibration source			0.72
	Bee	-0.32	0.91	

## 714 Figures

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716 Figure 1: Experimental set up for measuring bee vibrations. For floral buzzes (A), vibrations were 717 recorded simultaneously by a PDV-100 laser vibrometer focussed on a 2mm<sup>2</sup> reflective tag on the 718 back of the thorax of the bee, and by a 0.2g accelerometer pinned to the calyx at the base of the 719 flower. These measurements were sent to the compactRIO data acquisition unit (cRIO) which 720 timestamped the data and exported them to a file. For defence and flight buzzes (bottom), bees 721 were tethered on a platform using a nylon wire loop fed through a blunted needle. For defence 722 buzzes (B), bees were gently squeezed on the abdomen using featherweight tweezers. To stimulate 723 flight (C), the platform was dropped away triggering reflexive flight. In both cases, vibrations were 724 recorded using a PDV-100 laser vibrometer positioned above the bee and aimed at a 2mm<sup>2</sup> on the 725 back of the thorax. The vibrometer then send the data to the cRIO to be timestamped and exported. 726 Figure 2. Oscillograms and frequency spectra of vibrations (buzzes) produced by bumblebees 727 (Bombus terrestris audax) in three different behavioural contexts: Flight (A, B), defence (C, D), and 728 buzz pollination (E, F). Left-hand side panels (A, C, E) show buzzes in the time domain (oscillograms), while right-hand side panels show buzzes in the frequency domain (frequency spectra; B, D, F). The 729 730 coloured region in the oscillogram show the section of the buzz used to generate the corresponding 731 frequency spectrum. The first five harmonics (multiples of the fundamental frequency) are shown as 732 vertical dashed lines in the frequency spectra. 733 Figure 3. Differences in the properties of vibrations (buzzes) produced in different contexts (flight,

defence, floral buzzes). Vibrations differed in both peak velocity (A) and frequency (B), with floral
buzzes exhibiting the highest velocity and highest frequency buzzes, and flight producing the lowest
velocity and frequency vibrations. From these values we derived the magnitude of the vibrations, in
terms of displacement of the thorax, (C) and the acceleration (D) produced during these vibrations.

738 Although there was no difference in the absolute magnitude of the vibrations produced during 739 defence and floral buzzes, because the floral buzzes were faster and at higher frequency than the 740 defence buzzes, floral buzzes showed much higher accelerations. Mean +- SE. N = 36 bees from 2 colonies (16 for floral vibrations, 20 for defence and flight vibrations). Details of statistics in Table 1. 741 742 Figure 4. Example of a floral vibration produced by Bombus terrestris audax while visiting a flower 743 of Solanum citrullifolium as recorded directly from the bee (A, B) and on the flower (C, D). The 744 magnitude of the vibration, measured as peak velocity amplitude, is much higher when measured 745 directly on the bee's thorax with a laser vibrometer (A), than when measured using an 746 accelerometer attached to the base of the flower (C). In contrast, the fundamental frequency of the 747 buzz produced during floral visitation is the same (355 Hz) whether is measured in the bee's thorax 748 (B) or on the base of the flower (D). The coloured section in the oscillograms shown in A and C 749 represent the section of the buzz used to calculate the frequency spectra shown in B and D. The 750 dashed lines in panels B and D represent the first five harmonics of the fundamental frequency. 751 Figure 5. Peak amplitude velocity (A) and fundamental frequency (B) of floral buzzes of Bombus 752 terrestris audax on buzz-pollinated flowers of Solanum rostratum (closed symbols) and S. 753 citrullifolium (open symbols). Floral buzzes were recorded directly from the bee's thorax using a 754 laser vibrometer (green symbols) or on the flower using an accelerometer attached to the calyx 755 (magenta symbols). Vibrations recorded on the flower had significantly lower peak velocities but 756 similar fundamental frequencies as those measured in the bee. (C) Relationship between bee size 757 (intertegular distance) and the fundamental frequency of floral buzzes. Each symbol in (C) represents 758 the average frequency from multiple buzzes produced by an individual bee. Mean +- SE for A & B. N 759 = 16 bees from 2 colonies (8 on *S. rostratum*, 8 on *S. citrullifolium*). Details of statistics in Table 2. 760 Figure 6. Comparison of the ratio of the magnitude of the input vibration to the magnitude of the 761 vibration measured at the sensor (King's coupling factor) on two buzz-pollinated species of 762 Solanum. Coupling factors were estimated using either natural bee vibrations (bee) or synthetic

763	vibrations produced with a calibrated mechanical shaker ( <i>shaker</i> ) as the input vibration. The
764	calibrated shaker produced a vibration of fixed properties (frequency = 159.2 Hz, RMS velocity =
765	9.8mm/s). The magnitude of the vibration produced by the bee was measured using a laser
766	vibrometer on the bee's thorax. The vibration transmitted to the sensor on the flower was measured
767	at the calyx using an accelerometer. Plant species consistently differ in their coupling factor with S.
768	rostratum having lower values than S. citrullifolium (A), irrespective of whether it is calculated using
769	bee or calibrated shaker vibrations (B). Mean +- SE. A: N = 16 bees from 2 colonies (8 on S.
770	rostratum, 8 on S. citrullifolium), and 13 manual vibrations of flower (6 on S. rostratum, 6 on S.
771	<i>citrullifolium</i> ). B: $N = 13$ bees who had matching manual vibrations of their flower (6 on S.

*rostratum*, 7 on *S. citrullifolium*). Details of statistics in Table 3

# Floral buzzes





Figure 2



Buzz Type









