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## Epoxyalkenyl sex pheromones produced by female moths in highly evolved groups: biosynthesis and its endocrine regulation

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## Abstract:

Polyunsaturated hydrocarbons with a  $C_{17}$ - $C_{23}$  straight chain and the epoxy derivatives

constitute a second major class of lepidopteran sex pheromones and are referred to as Type II pheromones. While regionspecific epoxidation proceeds in a pheromone gland, the hydrocarbons are biosynthesized from dietary polyunsaturated fatty acids outside the pheromone gland and transported into the gland after association with lipophorin. *In vivo* as well as *in vitro* experiments using Japanese giant looper (*Ascotis selenaria cretacea*, Geometridae) demonstrated that pheromone biosynthesis-activating neuropeptide (PBAN) accelerated precursor uptake by the gland but not the biosynthetic step, which was contrast with the biosynthesis of Type I pheromones. The neuropeptide of *A. s. cretacea*, Assc-PBAN, was characterized to clarify its mode of unique action.

## **Keywords:**

lepidopteran sex pheromone, pheromone biosynthesis, lipophorin, neuropeptide hormone, cDNA of PBAN

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