

Mimicry in the ultraviolet: A predator perspective

by

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Abstract

The ubiquity of ultraviolet (UV) vision in animals means UV colour is as important to consider as visible colours when studying animal colouration. I first undertook a survey of recent animal behaviour research and determined that many studies still fail to account for UV vision and colour. Next I measured the visible and UV colour of hoverflies (Diptera: Syrphidae) months and decades since pinning to determine whether colour changed over time. I found no significant change in colour, supporting the use of preserved insects in colour research. Lastly, I tested whether hoverfly mimics resemble their hymenopteran models in the UV by scoring the strength of their UV reflection in photographs and obtaining spectral curves of hoverfly colours. I determined that there is a significant relationship between mimic and model thorax and abdomen UV colour and that mimics are significantly more similar to their potential hymenopteran models than to non-models in the UV.

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Introduction

This thesis focuses on ultraviolet (UV) colouration in hoverflies and its potential role in hoverfly mimicry. I will therefore begin by briefly introducing the key topics of my thesis: UV vision, UV colouration, and mimicry. In the chapter that follows this short introduction, I present a systematic survey of the extent to which UV vision and colour has been accounted for in behavioural research in the last year (2015). I then go on to present data on how the colours of pinned insect specimens change over time, and the extent to which hoverfly mimics resemble their putative hymenopteran models in the UV.

Animal colouration has evolved for a wide variety of purposes including sexual selection, thermoregulation, camouflage, and predator defense (Burt, 1981). Because colour is such an integral part of the world around us it is easy to forget that our view of colour is entirely subjective. Humans are trichromatic: this means we have three cone cell types in our eyes that allow us to see wavelengths of light from 400 – 700 nm (Cronin et al., 2014). This so called “visible light” contains all the colours of the rainbow from red to violet. However, many other animals possess the ability to see wavelengths of light outside the visible spectrum, including infrared light (wavelengths >700 nm) and ultraviolet (UV) light (wavelengths <400 nm; Osorio and Vorobyev, 2008). This means that these animals can effectively see a different rainbow of colours than humans. For example, most insects are also trichromatic but have their wavelength sensitivity shifted to the left. This means that they are able to see UV light but have difficulty detecting reds (Briscoe and Chittka, 2001; **Figure 1**). Birds are tetrachromatic, with four photoreceptor

types that allows them to see a broader rainbow that includes all human visible colours (including red) and UV (Hart and Hunt, 2007; **Figure 1**).

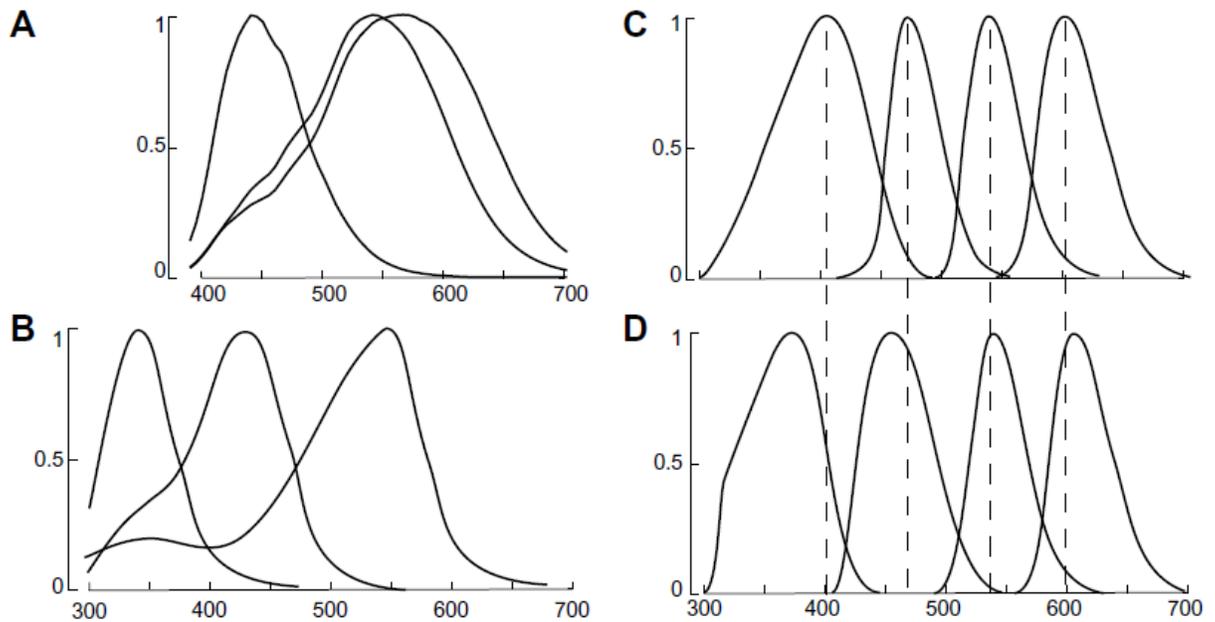


Figure 1. Normalized photoreceptor spectral sensitivities of: (A) human; (B) honeybee; (C) pigeon; (D) starling. X-axis is wavelength of light, y-axis is percent absorption. Taken from Osorio and Vorobyev, 2008.

In fact, the ability to see UV light is found in so many animal groups that it is more accurate to consider humans as “the odd ones out” (due to our lack of UV sensitivity) than it is to consider the ability to see UV as something special (Osorio and Vorobyev, 2008). An animal that can see UV will see colours that humans cannot. A flower which appears blue to humans, for example, will either be UV-blue (if UV reflective) or blue and UV absorbing to a UV sensitive animal.

UV is a colour, and so like other colours it can be manufactured structurally and with pigments (Parker, 2000). Pigments are molecules that absorb specific wavelengths of light, but they are named for the wavelengths they do not absorb (Johnsen, 2012). A red pigment will therefore absorb all wavelengths of light except for the longer wavelengths associated with red (approx. 650 – 750 nm; Johnsen, 2012). However, contrary to popular belief, pigments will actually appear black and reflect no light unless they have a structural layer beneath them that is reflective or contain another substance that scatters light (Johnsen, 2012). Because of this, ultraviolet markings must be structural, but can also be paired with a variety of pigments. This means that any “visible” colour can also potentially reflect UV wavelengths.

The existence of UV sensitive vision means that UV markings can be used for inter- and intra-species communication, just like visible colours (Silberglied, 1979). Although UV colour is not special in any way, ignoring it can lead to incorrect conclusions. I will therefore begin my thesis by discussing the ubiquity of UV colour and UV vision in animals and the importance of considering UV in studies that involve animals.

My next step will be to test whether preserved insect specimens can be used when studying insect colour (including UV colour). Preserved specimens can potentially provide an excellent source of data and many collections include large numbers of specimens of widely varying ages. However, in order to measure the colouration of dead and preserved specimens we must ensure that they accurately represent the colours of living individuals. So far, a number of studies have examined colour change over time in

museum specimens of birds (McNett and Marchetti, 2005; Armenta et al., 2008; Doucet and Hill, 2009), but to my knowledge no such study has examined colour changes in insects. Therefore I will determine whether both visible and UV colour changes over short (months) and long (decades) periods of time in hoverflies (Diptera: Syrphidae). My null hypothesis is that visible and UV colours do not change over time in hoverflies.

Determining whether insect colour fades over time is vital for interpreting the data in my final chapter where I will be testing whether hoverfly mimics resemble their putative hymenopteran models in the UV. Hoverflies are Batesian mimics of bees and wasps, meaning that they are harmless species that mimic the appearance and/or behaviour of defended species (Ruxton, 2004). One of the unsolved mysteries of Batesian mimicry is the existence of imperfect mimics (Kikuchi and Pfennig, 2013). On first reflection, one might assume that mimics should evolve to resemble their models as closely as possible; however many mimics are seemingly easily distinguishable from their models to human eyes. Hoverflies provide an excellent example of this phenomenon, since species range from imperfect to perfect mimics (Penney et al., 2012). There are a number of hypotheses that attempt to explain the existence of imperfect mimics (**Table 1**).

Table 1. Hypotheses for the persistence of imperfect mimicry (adapted from Kikuchi and Pfennig, 2013).

Hypothesis	Summary
Eye-of-the-beholder	Imperfect mimics appear “imperfect” to humans but predators perceive these mimics in a different way.
Developmental constraints	Mimics are unable to achieve perfection due to constraints to their evolution (such as insufficient genetic variation).
Chase-away	Mimetic perfection is unattainable since models are also continually evolving to escape their mimics.
Relaxed selection	Imperfect mimics have the same fitness as perfect mimics and so are under no pressure to increase their mimetic fidelity.
Mimetic breakdown	Mimicry is no longer an effective strategy and so mimetic traits are beginning to disappear through natural selection.
Perceptual exploitation	Mimics exploit the innate perceptual bias that causes predators to avoid models, perfect mimicry is not necessary.
Satyrlic mimicry	Imperfect mimics confuse predators by possessing a combination of model traits in an unexpected context.
Multiple models	Mimics have multiple models and so their appearance is a mixture of traits that resemble each model.
Multiple predators	Mimics are predated upon by generalist predators that avoid their model but also by specialist predators that target their model. Therefore the safest option is to imperfectly resemble a model to avoid both predator types.
Kin selection	Imperfect mimics increase the fitness of their kin by directing attacks away from more perfect mimics.
Character displacement	Imperfect mimics are a compromise between predator-mediated selection (favours perfect mimics) and competitively-mediated selection (favouring imperfect mimics).
Ugly duckling	A poor mimic (a “duck”) has simply been paired with the wrong model and is actually an excellent mimic (a “swan”) once the correct model is identified.

One of these hypotheses is “the eye of the beholder”. As I previously stated, many animals have very different visual systems than humans. This hypothesis states that the existence of “imperfect” mimics is therefore due to our skewed perception (resulting from our different visual system) and that actually the mimics are much more perfect in the eyes of their predators (Bennett et al., 1994). This hypothesis may be an appropriate explanation for imperfect mimicry in hoverflies since the evolution of mimicry is driven by predators and it is likely that most, if not all, hoverfly predators are capable of detecting UV (**Table 2**).

Table 2. A selection of potential hoverfly predators that possess UV sensitive vision.

Animal group	Examples	References
Birds	Blackbird, Blue tit, Starling	Hart and Hunt, 2007
Reptiles	Gecko, Anole, Lizard	Loew, 1994; Loew et al., 2002; Pérez i de Lanuza and Font, 2014
Amphibians	Frog, Toad	Govardovskii and Zueva, 1974; Silberglied, 1979
Arachnids	Jumping spider, Crab spider	Yamashita and Tateda, 1976; Defrize et al., 2011
Insects	Dragonfly	Briscoe and Chittka, 2001

So far, measurements of colour in a number of hoverfly species have not detected much UV reflection (Taylor et al., 2016) however since there are over 6000 species it is possible that there is still UV reflecting colour in this group. Assessments of mimetic fidelity in hoverflies are often done by humans (Golding et al., 2005), although pigeons have also been used (Dittrich et al., 1993; Green et al., 1999). These assessments using

pigeons were in part an attempt to assuage the eye-of-the-beholder hypothesis; however since pigeons have a violet sensitive cone, not an ultraviolet sensitive cone, they may not be able to perceive much UV reflection (Hart and Hunt, 2007). It is therefore possible that UV reflection in hoverflies increases their resemblance to their models and I hypothesize that hoverfly mimics will resemble their models in the UV spectrum.

Chapter 1: Ultraviolet vision and colour

Introduction

Ultraviolet (UV) wavelengths of light are invisible to the human eye, yet these wavelengths are seen and utilized by many other species. The discovery of UV vision, and UV colour, in animals has meant that research which involves animals with UV colour or vision should take UV into account. Despite the fact that the importance of UV has been asserted multiple times over the years (Silberglied, 1979; Cuthill and Bennett, 1993; Church et al., 2004; Stevens et al., 2007) a significant amount of current research still fails to account for it. In order to estimate how often UV is neglected I conducted a survey of articles published in *Animal Behaviour*, *Behavioural Ecology*, and *Behavioural Ecology and Sociobiology* in 2015. My first step was to find papers with a focus on animals known to have UV vision. Then, out of this smaller subset, I selected papers that involved assumptions about how colour is perceived by receivers. I classified each paper in terms of whether they had (i) measured colour appropriately (by including all reflected wavelengths detectable by the receiver), (ii) adequately controlled for colour when using artificial or dead animals, or when altering live animal color, and (iii) used appropriate indoor artificial lighting (did not exclude certain wavelengths of light). Each paper received a label of “UV” (UV was accounted for) or “No UV” (UV was not accounted for) based on the appropriateness of their methods. My survey found that 31 of the 63 articles did not take all possible steps to account for UV (**Table 3**; references in Supplementary Data). The sample data therefore suggests that there is still significant room for improvement.

Table 3. A summary of the methods of 63 articles published in three top animal behaviour journals in the year 2015. The articles chosen focused on animals with ultraviolet (UV) vision, and made assumptions about how colours are perceived by receivers. UV – UV vision and colour was accounted for; No UV – UV colour and vision was not accounted for; Measured – the study measured or assessed animal colour; Models – the study used artificial models, video, or altered live animal colouration; Lighting – the study used artificial lighting. Note: a study may appear in the table more than once, although a study cannot be both “UV” and “No UV”. A full list of the papers can be found in Supplementary Data.

	Animal Behaviour		Behavioral Ecology		Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology	
	UV	No UV	UV	No UV	UV	No UV
Birds						
Measured	3	1	5	1	1	2
Model	1	3	0	2	1	1
Lighting	0	0	2	0	1	1
Reptiles/amphibians						
Measured	1	0	3	1	2	1
Model	1	0	1	0	1	0
Lighting	0	0	0	0	0	1
Fishes						
Measured	1	1	2	3	0	3
Model	0	1	0	2	0	0
Lighting	1	1	2	3	0	1
Insects/arachnids						
Measured	2	1	1	0	1	0
Model	4	1	4	1	0	1
Lighting	0	1	0	0	1	0
Total	14	10	20	13	8	11

The ubiquity of ultraviolet colour and vision

Measuring the photoreceptor sensitivities of animals is a fairly new practice (Kelber et al., 2003) and yet UV vision has already been found in a large number of animals belonging to diverse taxa. The presence of UV sensitive photoreceptors is known to be widespread in birds and insects (Briscoe and Chittka, 2001; Hart and Hunt, 2007). Indeed, UV vision is the ancestral state for vertebrates and is known to persist in some species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes (Hunt et al., 2001). The pervasiveness of UV vision means that, as with visible colours, animals can use UV colouration for purposes ranging from sexual selection to predator defense (Bennett et al., 1994; Church et al., 2004; Crothers and Cummings, 2013). Even if a species itself is incapable of seeing UV, its predators, prey, or competitors may have UV vision. Reflected UV wavelengths (300-400 nm) can be combined with any reflected visible wavelengths of light (400-700 nm) to create a range of UV colours. This means that any visible colour, including black, can be UV reflective and examples of UV reflective colours have been found in many animals (**Table 4**). Although fewer studies have attempted to discern the role that UV colours play, a number of functions for the UV colours in a variety of animals have been proposed and occasionally tested (**Table 4**).

Table 4. Examples of human visible colours (400-700nm) which also reflect light in the UV spectrum (300-400nm) in a variety of animal species, and their proposed roles.

Visible colour	Animal example	Proposed role of colour	Reference
Violet	Female migrant hawker dragonfly (<i>Aeshna mixta</i>)	Sexual dimorphism/selection, species recognition	Harris et al., 2011
	Blue-necked tanager (<i>Tangara cyanicollis</i>)	Species recognition	Finger and Burkhardt, 1994
Blue	Male hairy dragonfly (<i>Brachytron pratense</i>)	Sexual dimorphism/selection, species recognition	Harris et al., 2011
	Tent caterpillar (<i>Malacosoma americanum</i>)	Unknown	Byers, 1975
	Male blue tit (<i>Parus caeruleus</i>)	Sexual dimorphism/selection	Hunt et al., 1998
	Lilford's wall lizard (<i>Podarcis lilfordi</i>)	Species recognition	Pérez i de Lanuza and Font, 2011
Green	Weevil (<i>Exophthalmos annulonotatus</i>)	Crypsis or aposematism	Pope and Hinton, 1977
	Grey shoulder-knot caterpillar (<i>Lithophane ornitopus</i>)	Aposematism	Church et al., 1998
	Gouldian finch (<i>Cloebia gouldiae</i>)	Species recognition	Finger and Burkhardt, 1994
	Bluehead wrasse (<i>Thalassoma bifasciatum</i>)	Unknown	Losey et al., 1999
Yellow	Beetle (<i>Glycyphana horsfieldi</i>)	Species recognition	Hinton, 1973
	European greenfinch	Species recognition	Finger and

	(<i>Chloris chloris</i>)		Burkhardt, 1994
	Puerto Rican crested anole (<i>Anolis cristatellus</i>)	Sexual dimorphism/selection	Fleishman et al., 1993
Orange	Male orange sulphur butterfly (<i>Colias eurytheme</i>)	Sexual dimorphism/selection, species recognition	Silberglied and Taylor, 1973
	Rainbow lorikeet (<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>)	Sexual selection	Hausmann et al., 2003
	Checkerboard wrasse (<i>Halichoeres hortulanus</i>)	Unknown	Losey et al., 1999
Red	Scarlet ibis (<i>Eudocimus ruber</i>)	Species recognition	Finger and Burkhardt, 1994
Purple	Gouldian finch (<i>Cloebia gouldiae</i>)	Species recognition	Finger and Burkhardt, 1994
Brown	Brown lory (<i>Chalcopsitta duivenbodei</i>)	Species recognition	Finger and Burkhardt, 1994
	Eggs of the red-chested cuckoo (<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>)	Mimicry	Cherry and Bennett, 2001
	Ambon damselfish (<i>Pomacentrus amboinensis</i>)	Species recognition	Siebeck et al., 2010
Grey	Herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)	Unknown	Burkhardt, 1989
Black	Danaid Eggfly butterfly (<i>Hypolimnas misippus</i>)	Unknown	Silberglied, 1973
	Black lory (<i>Chalcopsitta atra</i>)	Species recognition	Finger and Burkhardt, 1994

White	Yellow fever mosquito (<i>Aedes aegypti</i>)	Disruptive colouration	Hinton, 1973
	Longhorn beetle (<i>Calothyrza pauli</i>)	Crypsis or aposematism	Pope and Hinton, 1977
	Buff-tailed bumblebee (<i>Bombus terrestris</i>)	Aposematism	Stelzer et al., 2010
	Peppered moth (<i>Biston betularia</i>)	Crypsis	Majerus et al., 2000
	Eggs of the cape robin (<i>Cossypha caffra</i>)	Species recognition	Cherry and Bennett, 2001
Gold and Silver	Mantis fly (<i>Ochthera mantis</i>)	Unknown	Steinly et al., 1978.
	Male jumping spider (<i>Cosmophasis umbratica</i>)	Sexual (and juvenile- adult) dimorphism/selection	Lim and Li, 2006
	Dark-edged splitfin (<i>Girardinichthys multiradiatus</i>)	Sexual selection, species recognition	Garcia and Burt de Perera, 2002

The prevalence of UV vision and colour means that any study that involves measuring the colour of dead or alive animal specimens, or uses real or artificial animals in experiments must consider the visual system of the receiver, whether it be a predator, prey, competitor, or conspecific. Studies that disregard UV will provide less meaningful results since the colours used or described will not be equivalent to the colours perceived by the animal in question.

Conclusions

The extensive presence of UV photoreceptors in animal visual systems, and the numerous examples of UV colour in animals, shows that UV colour is as important as any other

visible colour. Studies that quantify colour, or even qualitatively describe or compare colour patterns must take UV colour into account. Descriptions of colour should not reflect our view of them, but instead should be tailored to the purpose of the colour. For example, a red beetle with UV reflection may appear red to humans, be UV-red to birds and only UV reflective to conspecifics who cannot perceive long wavelengths. Studies that attempt to emulate colour should manufacture models which match their appearance in the UV and visible wavelengths, while experiments that examine animal behaviour should ensure that the spectrum of light is representative. Studies that involve animal colouration may have misleading results if they do not consider the visual system of the receiver.

Chapter 2: Measuring insect colour

Introduction

Although the measurement of live individuals is often ideal, it can be difficult or impossible in practice and can restrict the number of individuals that can be sampled. Therefore, dead animal specimens can be a vital resource when studying animal colouration. Animal colour can be the result of pigments, structural colour, or both, and over time these structures or compounds can break down, resulting in a change in the hue or intensity of colour (Parker, 2000; McNamara et al., 2012; Johnsen, 2012). For example dragonfly (Odonata) colours fade after death and can change if the insect's metabolism is affected (such as in cold conditions; Mitchell and Lasswell, 2000). Therefore, any studies of colouration in these species should be restricted to live specimens. However, there is little research that examines how colours change over time in insect taxa. A number of studies have examined the effect of time and preservation on bird feathers and have found that colours can fade over time (McNett and Marchetti, 2005; Armenta et al., 2008; Doucet and Hill, 2009). However, the extent of the fade and the portion of the spectrum most affected varied from study to study, and most studies concluded that preserved birds *can* be used to represent live avian colouration. In fact, in their study on long tailed manakins (*Chiroxiphia linearis*), Doucet and Hill (2009) stated that “*variation in reflectance in a single population of wild birds often matched or exceeded variation in museum specimens spanning the entire geographic distribution of long-tailed manakins over a period of more than one hundred years*”. My goal was to determine whether visible and ultraviolet colour changed over time in insects and specifically in hoverflies

(Diptera:Syrphidae), a common and abundant group known for their mimicry of bees and wasps. I hypothesized that hoverfly colour does not change significantly after death, and over longer periods of preservation such as decades.

Methods

Photography

I collected 92 live hoverflies from May 24th 2015 to September 2nd 2015 at one of four locations in Canada: Rigaud, QC (45°28'N, 74°18'W), Queen's University Biological Station (ON) 44°34'N, 76°19'W), Bouchette, QC (46°13'N, 75°56'W), and Fletcher's wildlife garden in Ottawa, ON (45°23'N, 75°42'W). I collected a total of 23 hoverfly species (and some hoverflies only identifiable to genus). I captured insects using nets and placed them in plastic tubes before transporting them back to the laboratory. I then pinned the live insects and photographed them in both visible and ultraviolet (UV) light using a Nikon D70 camera with an El Nikkor 80mm lens and a Baader U UV filter (Baader Planetarium, Germany: 310-390nm UV transmission). This camera has been used in previous research involving UV (Stelzer et al., 2010; D. Kikuchi, personal communication) and the El-Nikkor lens is sensitive to wavelengths 320nm and higher (Verhoeven and Schmitt, 2010). The light source was a MTD70 EYE colour arc bulb (70W 1.0A power source, www.eyelighting.co.uk) which has a D65 spectrum (the same spectrum as sunlight). This allowed me to take visible and UV photos with the same lighting. I pinned insects to a grey, UV absorbing background and took four photos: one visible photo of the dorsal side, one UV photo of the dorsal side, one visible photo of the right side and one UV photo of the right side. I took the visible photos without a filter and

used an exposure time of 13 milliseconds and then added the filter for the UV photos which had an exposure time of six seconds (since less UV light is available). I positioned the camera on a tripod to reduce movement (**Figure 2**).

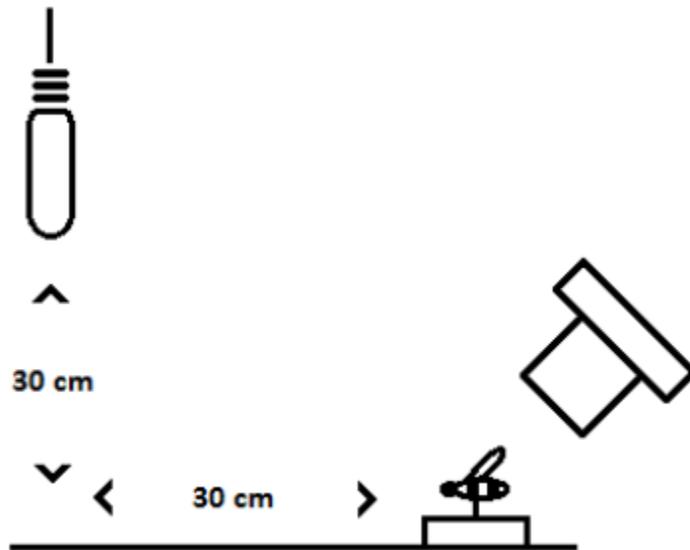


Figure 2. The photography set up. The camera is on the right side of the diagram and is pointing at the specimen (tripod not shown) while the light is on the top left.

I took all photos in RAW format (other formats will compress photo data causing data to be lost or altered). I also included a spectralon 99% reflective standard and a small scale bar in each photo. Some insects moved their wings too rapidly for the long exposure time and in those cases I removed one or both wings. Once an insect was photographed alive I immediately placed it in either a cyanide tube or the freezer (treatments were assigned randomly) and left it for approximately 20 minutes, causing death. I then photographed it again using the same methods. Afterwards I photographed the same insect another seven

times: at 30 minutes after death, 24 hours, seven days, 14 days, 30 days, 90 days, and 180 days. This gave me a total of nine photographs for each specimen.

Photo analysis

Of the collected hoverflies, 13 species and two genera (unable to identify to species) were considered to have UV reflective colour on the basis of bright markings being visible in the UV photographs (**Table 5**).

Table 5. The species or genus ID, number of specimens, and presence/absence of UV colour for the 92 hoverflies collected. The CNC collection numbers for all specimens can be found in the Specimen data excel file.

Species or genus	Number of specimens	UV reflective colour present somewhere on body
<i>Allograpta obliqua</i>	2	yes
<i>Anasimyia lunulatus</i>	1	yes
<i>Chalcosyrphus nemorum</i>	2	yes
<i>Dasysyrphus intrudens complex</i>	1	no
<i>Epistrophe nitidicollis</i>	1	no
<i>Eristalis arbustorum</i>	5	yes
<i>Eristalis tenax</i>	1	no
<i>Eristalis transversa</i>	4	no
<i>Eupeodes</i>	6	yes
<i>Eurimyia lineatus</i>	1	yes
<i>Helophilus fasciatus</i>	1	no
<i>Parasyrphus genualis</i>	2	yes
<i>Parhelophilus laetus</i>	1	yes
<i>Platycheirus immarginatus</i>	1	yes
<i>Platycheirus nearcticus</i>	2	yes
<i>Platycheirus obscurus</i>	1	yes
<i>Platycheirus</i>	1	yes
<i>Sericomyia chrysotoxoides</i>	1	no
<i>Sphaerophoria</i>	1	no
<i>Sphaerophoria novaeangliae</i>	1	no
<i>Sphiximorpha willistoni</i>	1	no
<i>Syrirta pipiens</i>	20	yes
<i>Syrphus ribesii</i>	1	yes
<i>Toxomerus geminatus</i>	2	no

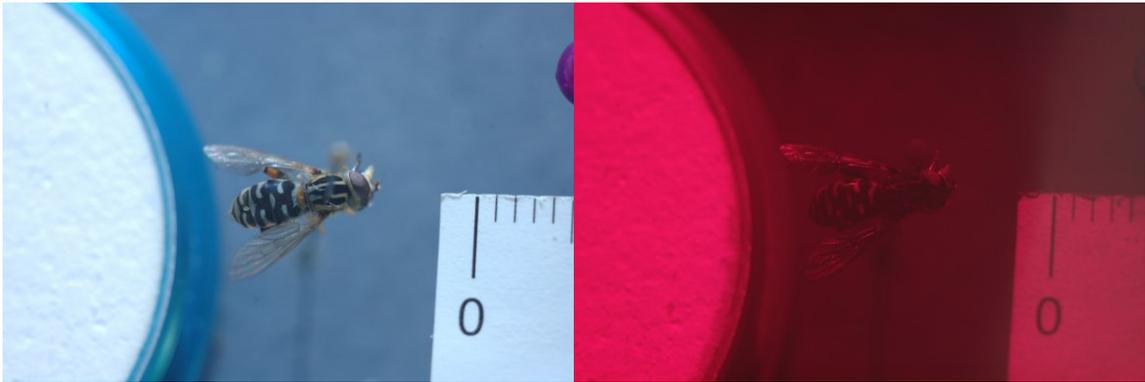
<i>Volucella evecata</i>	1	no
<i>Xylota quadrimaculata</i>	1	yes

No specimens had obvious changes (to the human eye) in ultraviolet or visible colour over the six months. I chose to measure the colour of *Syrirta pipiens* over time since I had the largest number of specimens for this species and it had some of the brightest UV reflecting yellow colour on its abdomen. I used 19 out of the 20 specimens since the standard was not visible in one of the photos for specimen CNC649401. Using the ddraw plugin in ImageJ (which converts RAW files to smaller 16 bit files without losing or altering photo data; Schneider et al., 2012; Coffin, 2015) I selected five to ten square patches of the yellow abdominal markings on the fly's cuticle in both the visible and UV photos. I also selected an area of the reflection standard in each photo. For the UV photos I recorded the average pixel brightness value $((R + G + B)/3)$ and for the visible photos I recorded the average pixel value of each colour channel (R, G, B). I then used the values for the standard to standardize these measurements by dividing each pixel value for the standard by 255 (the maximum pixel value possible in each colour channel) and then dividing the average measured pixel value by the resulting proportion. Standardization is important since it accounts for any slight differences in brightness between photos that could affect pixel values.

Since the time period over which the collected insects were photographed was quite short (six months), I also photographed insects in the Canadian National Collection of Arachnids, Nematodes and Insects (Ottawa, ON, same methods as previous) and measured their colour. This allowed me to test whether there was an effect of specimen

age on colour. I selected *Eurimyia lineatus* and *Syrirta pipiens* (**Figure 3**) based on the large number of specimens available in the collection and the fact that they were among those species I collected live that had UV reflecting colour. I photographed all collection specimens that were collected in the province of Ontario.

A)



B)

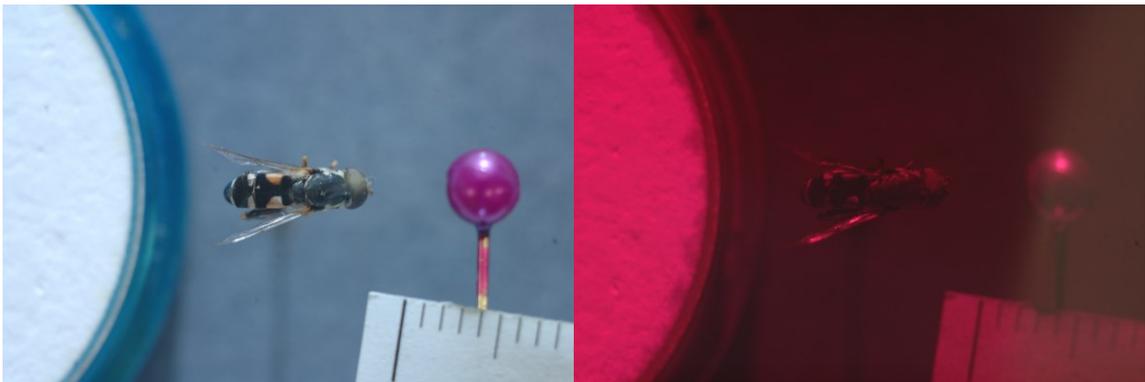


Figure 3. Visible and ultraviolet photographs of *Eurimyia lineatus* (A) and *Syrirta pipiens* (B).

I undertook the same methods when measuring the colour of the CNC specimens. All the CNC specimens used had been collected in Ontario.

Statistical analysis

Models were fitted in R 3.3.2 (R Core Development Team 2016). My first step was to determine whether visible colour changed over a short period of time (months) in *Syritta pipiens*. I therefore tested whether the average pixel value of each colour (red, green, blue) in the visible photos changed over time. Including specimen ID as a random effect was crucial for the analysis, because by controlling for specimen ID it allowed us to quantify any colour change within each specimen. I also included killing method (freezing or cyanide) as a fixed factor. Multivariate linear regression could not be employed with the inclusion of a random effect, so instead I fitted three linear mixed models (one for each colour channel) with the average pixel value of red/green/blue as the response variable. Each photo was assigned a time in hours (0 hours (alive) to 4320 hours (6 months)) and $\log(\text{time} + 1)$ was included as the continuous predictor to ensure normality and homogeneity of variance while specimen ID was included as a random effect variable and killing method was included as a fixed factor. Analysis of deviance was used to test whether we could reject the NH that the colour component did not vary over time. To test whether UV colour changed over time in *S. pipiens* I fitted the same linear mixed model but with the average pixel brightness value in the UV photos as the response variable. Due to the fact that there is no UV colour channel in a camera the UV reflectance in a photograph is a combination of R, G and B pixel values.

Next, I determined whether the visible and UV colour of museum specimens of *Eurimyia lineatus* and *S. pipiens* differed due to age, with time spanning decades. Here the same

specimen was not repeatedly measured, so specimen ID was not treated as a random factor.

To test whether the average pixel value of red, green, and blue changed over time in the visible photos I performed a MANOVA with the average pixel value of red, green and blue as the response variable and time in years as the predictor. To test whether the average pixel brightness value changed over time in the UV photos I fitted a linear regression with the average number of pixels as the response variable and time in years as the predictor.

Results

In the analysis of the insect specimens over six months there was significant change in the average pixel value of red (analysis of deviance, $\chi^2_1 = 15.464$, $p < 0.001$), green ($\chi^2_1 = 9.544$, $p < 0.01$), and blue ($\chi^2_1 = 4.965$, $p < 0.01$) in visible photos of *Syritta pipiens* taken over a six month period (**Figure 4**). There was also significant change in the average pixel brightness value ($\chi^2_1 = 13.747$, $p < 0.001$) in the UV photos taken over the same period (**Figure 5**). This change was in the form of the following increases in average pixel value per unit of time ($\log(\text{hours}+1)$): red, 1.05; blue, 0.666; green, 0.336; and UV, 0.851.

There was no significant effect of killing method on average red ($\chi^2_1 = 0.824$, $p = 0.364$), green ($\chi^2_1 = 0.053$, $p = 0.819$) or blue ($\chi^2_1 = 0.047$, $p = 0.828$) pixel values or on average pixel brightness values ($\chi^2_1 = 0.153$, $p = 0.696$).

The analysis of the museum specimens showed that there was no significant difference in the average pixel values of red, green, or blue in the visible photos of *E. lineatus* (Pillai's Trace = 0.197, $F(1,3) = 2.123$, $p = 0.122$; **Figure 6**) and *S. pipiens* (Pillai's Trace = 0.080, $F(1,3) = 1.251$, $p = 0.303$; **Figure 8**) over decades, or in the average pixel brightness value in the UV photos of *E. lineatus* ($R^2 = 0.043$, $F(1, 27) = 1.207$, $p = 0.282$; **Figure 7**). However the analysis of *S. pipiens* did show a significant decrease in average pixel brightness value in the UV photos ($R^2 = 0.1635$, $F(1, 42) = 8.21$, $p < 0.01$; **Figure 9**). The *S. pipiens* analysis contained specimens that were over 100 years old, and an additional analysis that removed specimens over 100 years old found no significant change ($R^2 = 0.035$, $F(1, 35) = 1.252$, $p = 0.271$).

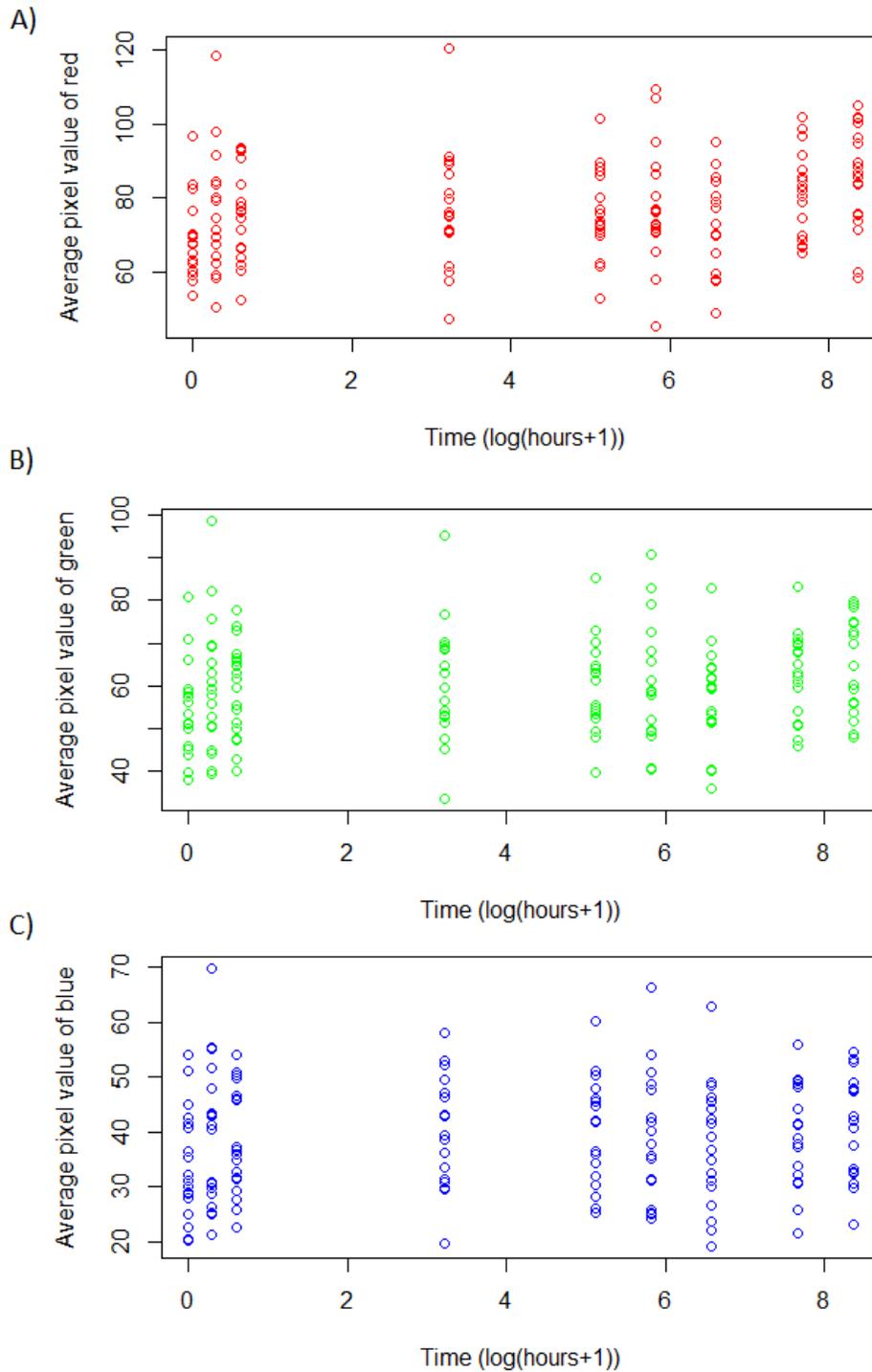


Figure 4. Average pixel value of red (A), green (B), and blue (C) versus time (log(hours +1)) for the yellow abdominal markings of *Syrretta pipiens*. Pixel values were measured from visible photos and 19 specimens were included. Results are significant (red: analysis of deviance, $\chi^2_1 = 15.464$, $p < 0.001$, green: $\chi^2_1 = 9.544$, $p < 0.01$, and blue: $\chi^2_1 = 4.965$, $p < 0.01$).

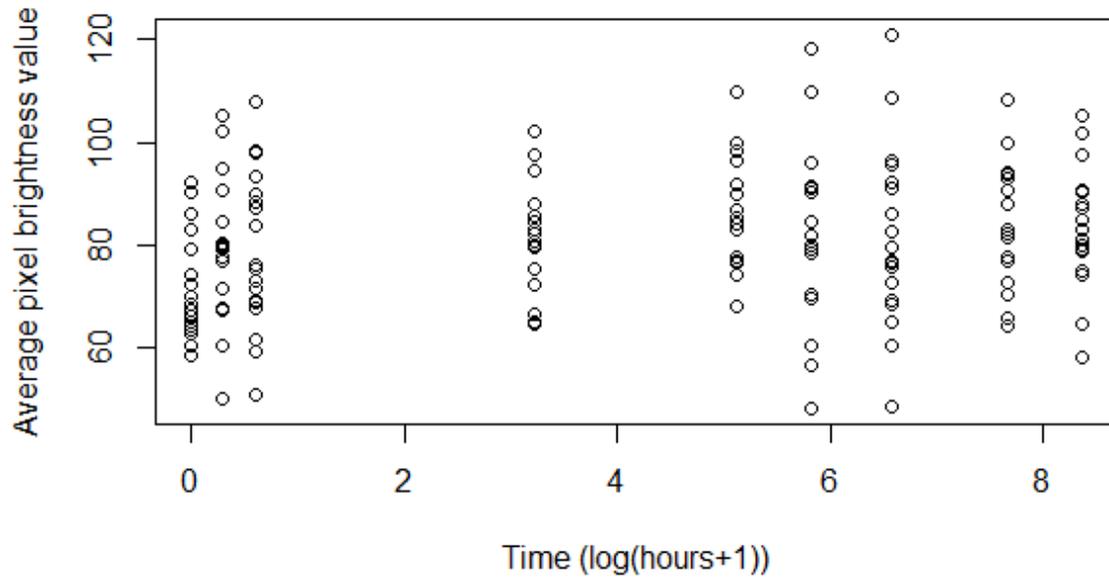


Figure 5. Average pixel brightness value versus time (log(hours +1)) for the UV yellow abdominal markings of *Syrretta pipiens*. Pixels were measured from UV photos and 19 specimens were included. Results are significant ($\chi^2_1 = 13.747$, $p < 0.001$).

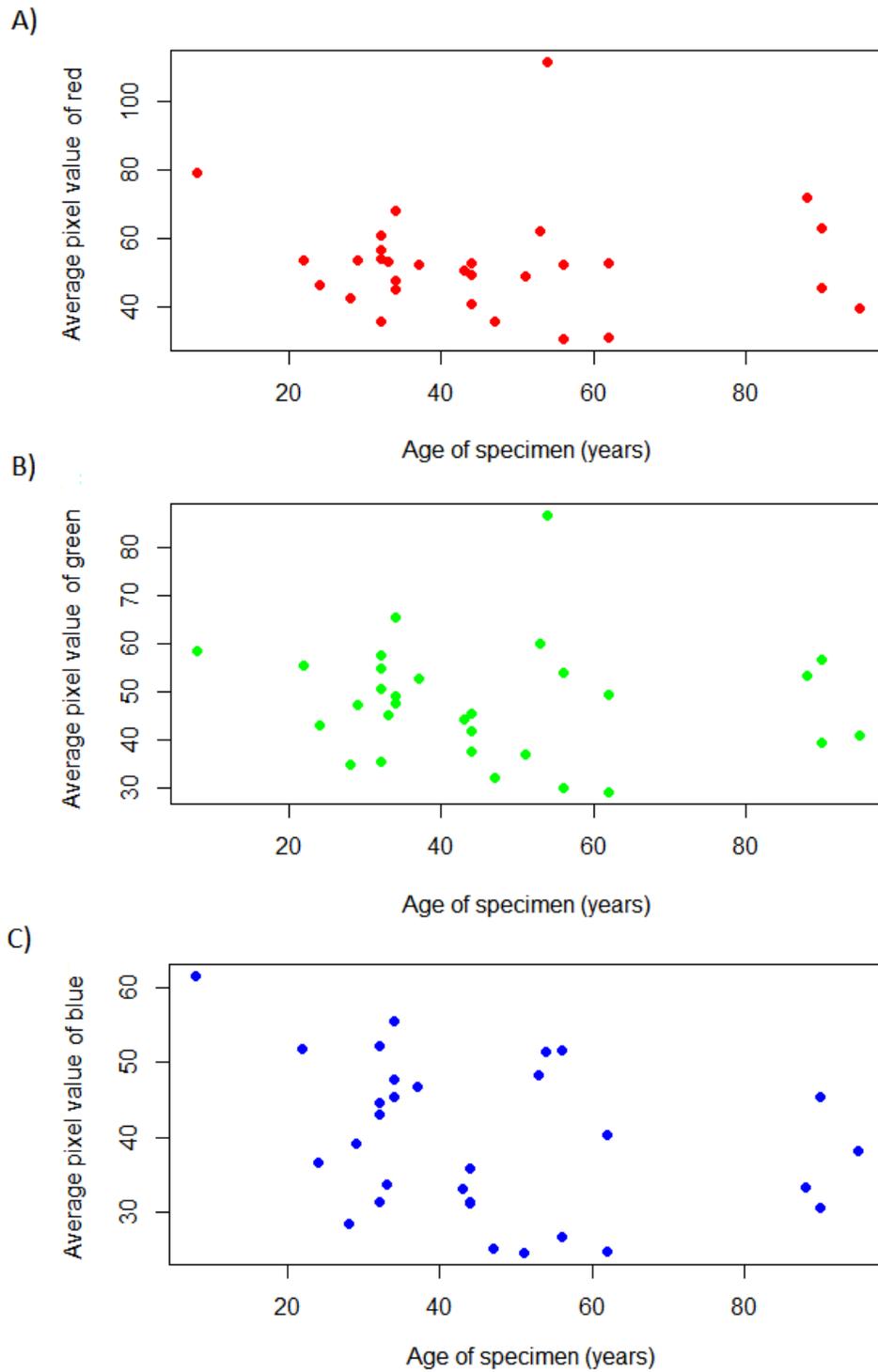


Figure 6. Average pixel value of red (A), green (B), and blue (C) versus the age of specimen for the yellow abdominal markings of *Eurimyia lineatus*. Pixel values were measured from visible photos and 29 specimens of various ages were included.

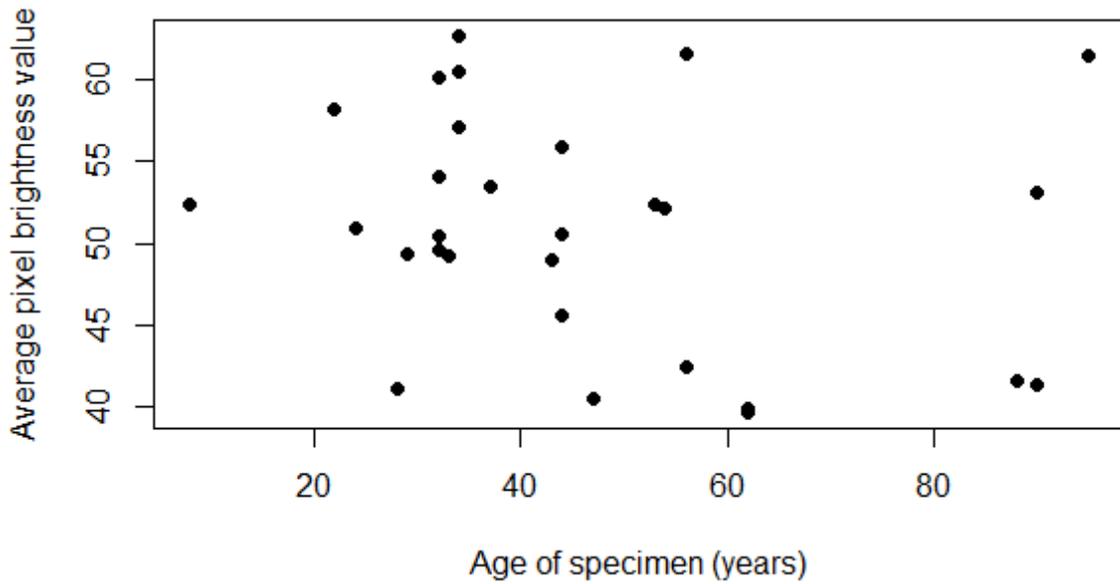


Figure 7. Average pixel brightness value versus the age of specimen for the ultraviolet reflecting yellow abdominal markings of *Eurimyia lineatus*. Pixel brightness values were measured from UV photos and 29 specimens of various ages were included.

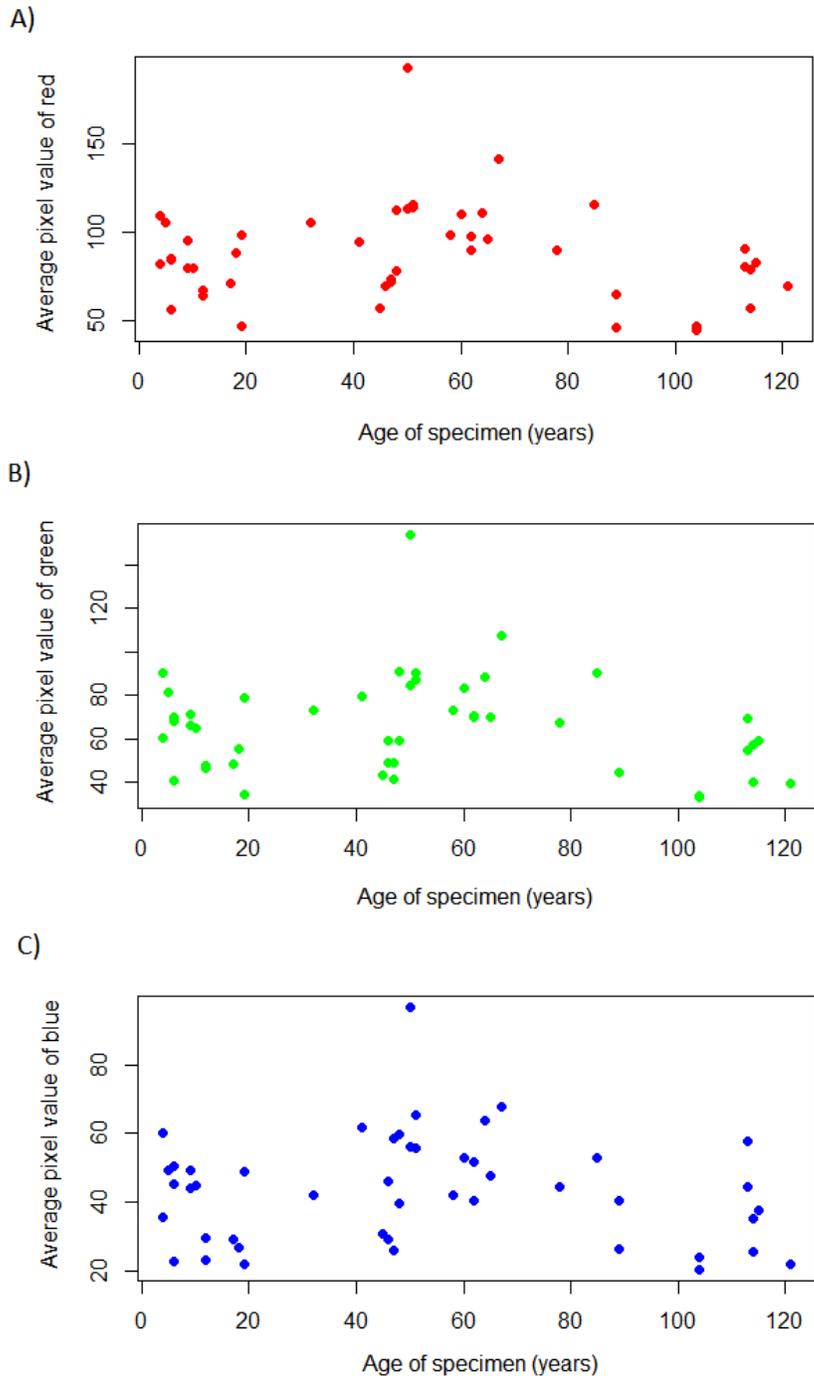


Figure 8. Average number of red (A), green (B), and blue (C) pixels versus the age of specimen for the yellow abdominal markings of *Syritta pipiens*. Pixels were measured from visible photos and 44 specimens of various ages were included.

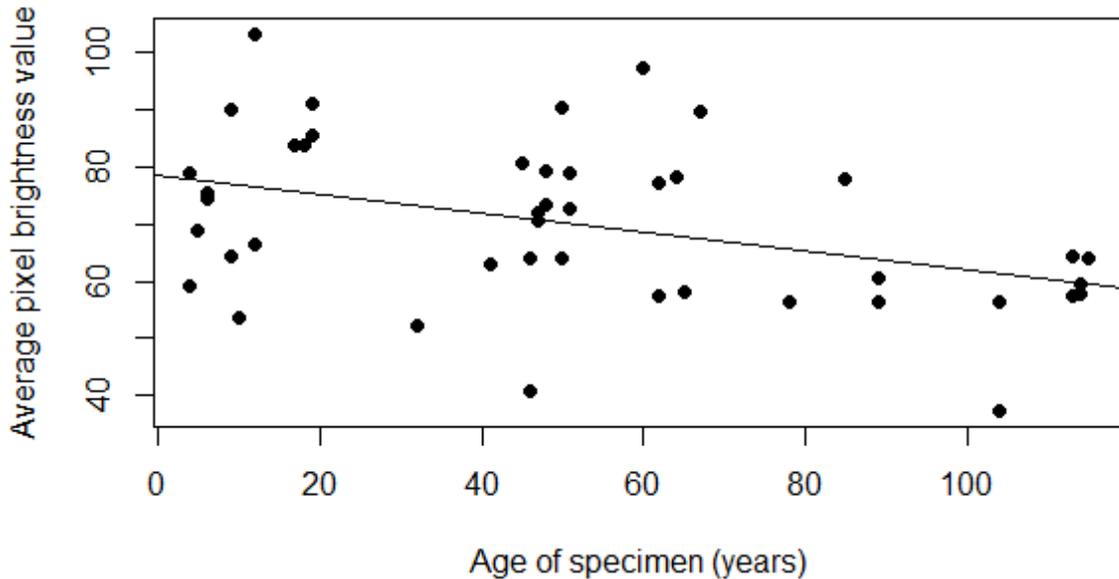


Figure 9. Average pixel brightness value versus the age of specimen for the ultraviolet reflecting yellow abdominal markings of *Syritta pipiens*. Pixel brightness values were measured from UV photos and 44 specimens of various ages were included. Results are significant ($R^2 = 0.1635$, $F(1, 42) = 8.21$, $p < 0.01$).

Discussion

Interestingly, the average pixel value (R, G, B) in the visible photos and the average pixel brightness value (UV) in the UV photos of *Syritta pipiens* increased over the short term. This means that the collected specimens' visible and UV colour increased in brightness (as opposed to fading) over the six month period after death. A decrease in both visible and UV colour would indicate that pigments and/or structures were breaking down while a decrease in visible colour paired with an increase in UV colour could indicate that yellow pigments were degrading while the UV reflecting structures stayed intact. Therefore less UV wavelengths would be absorbed by the pigments and UV colour would increase while yellow faded. An increase in the brightness of both visible and UV

colour means it is most likely that an additional coating (perhaps the cement or waxy layer on the outer surface of the epicuticle, Gullan and Cranston, 2010) was degrading, allowing more light to reach the pigments or colour reflecting structures beneath. This would lead to brighter yellow and UV colour. Although the increase in average pixel value (R, G, B) and average pixel brightness value (UV) was statistically significant I believe it is unlikely to have a strong effect on how the colours of dead hoverfly specimens are perceived when compared to living specimens. This is because the increase in average pixel value (and average pixel brightness value) was very small (one pixel value or less per unit of time ($\log(\text{hours} + 1)$)). In addition, the analysis of colour change over decades found that average pixel value and average pixel brightness value did not change significantly in visible or UV photos of *Eurimyia lineatus* (over 95 years) or in the visible photos of *Syrirta pipiens* (over 121 years). The average pixel brightness value of the UV photos of *S. pipiens* did significantly decrease over time when all specimens were included in the analysis, but when specimens over 100 years old were excluded it was no longer significant. This means that UV colour does fade over time but that it is slow and gradual enough that it only becomes apparent when very old specimens are included. The fact that visible and UV colour increase in brightness over a short period of time after death but stay stable over much longer periods means it is likely that whatever coating is degrading does so fairly quickly after death. These results bolster the use of insect specimens in colour research since it is likely that other insects, such as hymenopterans, use the same types of pigments or physical structures to create colours (Chapman, 1998). Although the killing methods of the CNC specimens were not known, there was no effect of killing method on the colour of specimens I collected therefore it is

unlikely to be an important consideration when using museum specimens. McNett and Marchetti's 2005 study on colour change in museum specimens of wood warblers found that brightness decreased with age, with UV colours showing a greater decrease over time. One likely cause for this greater colour fade is the presence of bacteria on bird feathers. Birds have a wide array of bacteria on their feathers and while some types are beneficial, other types such as keratinolytic bacteria can degrade feathers and alter hue and brightness (Goldstein et al., 2004; Shawkey et al., 2007). Many of the CNC hoverfly specimens I used were likely collected or stored in ethanol at some point (a common collection technique) which would help kill off any bacteria present on their bodies at the time of collection.

I was unable to determine whether the visible yellow colour or the UV colour was due to pigments (possibly pterins or ommachromes) or structural colour in the two species of hoverfly that I measured (Chapman, 1998). Determining the basis of the colour in these species will help elucidate whether the consistency of colour over time is due to a lack of degradation of structure or of pigment molecules. Interestingly, there was considerable variation in colour and overall brightness between specimens of the same species (variance due to specimen ID: red, 80.51; green, 85.62; blue, 83.22; UV, 115.78). This was despite the fact that many specimens were collected in the same location and even on the same day. UV colour in jumping spiders is known to be affected by age and feeding history (Lim and Li, 2007), while UV colour in butterflies can be affected by stressors, and environmental factors (Kemp et al., 2006; Pecháček et al., 2014). This could explain the variation found in individual hoverflies of the same species that were caught on the

same day and/or at the same location. The large variation between individuals means that it is important that measurements of a species' colour use multiple specimens. It is also important to note that my samples came from a well-regulated collection and were stored in ideal conditions. It is possible that this contributed to consistency in colour over long periods of time. This study is an important step in determining the accuracy of using insect collections in colour research. However due to the huge diversity of insects I would urge that future research focus on other species in a variety of orders.

Chapter 3: Ultraviolet mimicry in hoverflies

Introduction

One of the puzzles of Batesian mimicry is the existence of imperfect mimics (Kikuchi and Pfennig, 2013). A variety of hypotheses have been proposed to explain the existence of these imperfect mimics, including the “eye of the beholder” hypothesis (Cuthill and Bennett, 1993). This hypothesis is based on the fact that different organisms have different sensory systems and different cognitive functioning and it posits that a mimic who might seem imperfect to us could in fact be a perfect, or at least a passable, mimic to its predators. Batesian mimicry is a defensive strategy used to protect an organism from predation, which means its evolution is driven by predators. Therefore, when assessing the fidelity of a mimic we need to consider the sensory system of its predators.

One of the most obvious differences between humans and other predators is our colour vision. Humans are trichromatic and can see only visible wavelengths of light (400 – 700 nm), but many other taxa can also see ultraviolet (UV) wavelengths (300 – 400 nm). UV sensitive photoreceptors have been found in a wide variety of animal groups including some mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and arachnids (Govardovskii and Zueva, 1974; Hart and Hunt, 2007; Defrize et al., 2011; Pérez i de Lanuza and Font, 2014). UV sensitivity has also been discovered in every insect species examined so far (Briscoe and Chittka, 2001).

Hoverflies (Diptera:Syrphidae) are a well-known example of Batesian mimicry and provide an excellent study system due to their abundance and apparent wide range of mimetic perfection: from imperfect to perfect (Penney et al., 2012). Some hoverfly species are also polymorphic, with different forms mimicking different models. So far however, the majority of assessments of mimetic fidelity in hoverflies have only examined mimic and model appearances using visible colours (Howarth et al., 2000; Howarth and Edmunds, 2000; Holloway et al., 2002; Edmunds and Reader, 2014; Penney et al., 2014). A recent study by Taylor et al. (2016) also found little UV reflection in a number of mimic and model species when using a spectrophotometer. Despite this, it is clear that hoverfly predators are capable of seeing UV colour. Birds, which are likely the main predator of hoverflies (Edmunds, 2008), are known to use UV signals when foraging and attacking prey (Burkhardt, 1982; Olofsson et al., 2010) and UV colour has been found in many other insect groups so far (**Table 6**), including bumblebees (Stelzer et al., 2010) which are well-known models of hoverflies. Given that UV colour is widespread in insects and the majority of insect predators can see UV I hypothesize that hoverfly mimics will match their models in the UV spectrum.

Table 6. Examples of UV reflective colours in a number of insect orders.

Order	UV reflective colour	References
Coleoptera	White, metallic blue, yellow, copper, red	Hinton, 1973; Pope and Hinton, 1977
Diptera	White, silver, gold	Hinton, 1973; Steinly et al., 1978
Hemiptera larvae	White	Hinton, 1977
Hymenoptera	White	Stelzer et al., 2010
Lepidoptera larvae	White, blue, green	Byers, 1975; Church et al., 1998
Lepidoptera adults	White, blue, green, orange, red, black	Brues, 1941; Silberglied, 1979; Majerus, 2000
Odonata	White, violet, blue, green, iridescent blue and green, yellow	Robey, 1975; Harris et al., 2011

Methods

Photography

I chose to photograph mimic and model groups that had been previously been compiled by mimicry experts (see below). This allowed me to test whether independent classifications of mimics and models created using visible light were supported by UV data. I compiled my list of mimic species and their proposed models using three separate publications (Howarth et al., 2000; Howarth and Edmunds, 2000; Edmunds and Reader,

2014). All species were European, but some are also found in North America. Hoverfly mimic species were paired with one or more bee or wasp model species and some mimics shared the same models. I photographed specimens from the CNC (Canadian National Collection of Insects, Arachnids, and Nematodes, Ottawa) with the exception of several hymenopteran species that were borrowed from York University (ON, Canada). I photographed 76 hoverfly species (three of which had multiple varieties or morphologies) and 67 hymenopteran species. When possible, I would photograph five individuals from each species. If more than five individuals of a species were available I would select specimens that were intact and with wing placement such that the wings were not obscuring any body parts. I also preferentially selected specimens that had been collected in Europe. This was because the species I chose are Palearctic and to ensure that mimics and models were from roughly the same location. All photography equipment and methods used are the same as those stated in Chapter 2. I recorded specimen details, such as ID number, sex, age, location, and killing method for all specimens photographed (if such data was available). Although a spectrophotometer can provide detailed spectra, photographs are useful for rapid screening of large numbers of specimens. Also a spectrophotometer can only be used to measure specific points, while a photograph will elucidate patterns. The two approaches are therefore complementary.

I used the photographs to categorize each specimen as having UV reflecting colour anywhere on its body (1) or not (0). I then used volunteers to assign UV colour strength scores for all those specimens I had judged to have UV reflecting colour. A separate UV colour score was solicited for each main body region: head, thorax, abdomen, and legs. I showed four volunteers photos of the specimens and asked them to rank the strength of the UV reflecting

colour as 0 (none), 1 (weak) or 2 (strong) for each body region. I presented all hoverfly photos first followed by all Hymenoptera photos (in alphabetical order) to prevent any potential association between mimics and models. The human volunteers assayed 445 specimens in this way. This enabled me to get an average value of UV strength for each body section.

Statistical analysis of photograph data

All models were fitted in R 3.3.2 (R Core Development Team 2016). I first calculated the mean UV strength score for each body region of every species of mimic and model, treating species as the unit of replication. Since the data was non-normal I used Kendall's tau to determine whether there was a significant relationship between the mean UV colour strength of mimics and their models for each body region (Spearman's rho cannot handle tied data points), with species as the replicate. Next I calculated the mean squared difference in UV colour strength between members of a mimic (species 1) and specimens of its own models (species 2) for each body region $((H_1-H_2)^2 + (T_1-T_2)^2 + (A_1-A_2)^2 + (L_1-L_2)^2)$; if there were multiple model species then the mean value of all model strength scores was used) and the mean difference in UV colour strength between a mimic and all non-models (i.e. excluding its own model(s)). I then used a paired t-test to determine whether mimics were more or less different to their own models than to other (non-) models.

Microspectrophotometry

In addition to photographing specimens, I also sent off the collected hoverfly specimens to have their colour spectra measured with a microspectrophotometer by Dr. Nate Morehouse at

the University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, PA, USA). I collected hoverflies from May 24th 2015 to September 2nd 2015 in four different areas: Rigaud, QC (45°28'N, 74°18'W), Queen's University Biological Station (ON) 44°34'N, 76°19'W), Bouchette, QC (46°13'N, 75°56'W), and Fletcher's wildlife garden in Ottawa, ON (45°23'N, 75°42'W). I then photographed the same specimens in UV to determine which species had UV reflecting colour (more detailed methods were described in Chapter 2). I chose eight different species with UV reflecting colour to be measured. The UV reflective yellow areas and the UV absorbing black areas on the following numbers of each species were then measured using the microspectrophotometer: *Anasimyia lunulatus* (1), *Chalcosyrphus nemorum* (2), *Eristalis arbustorum* (5), *Eupeodes americanus* or *pomus* (1; females of these species cannot currently be distinguished), *Eurimyia lineatus* (1), *Parasyrphus genualis* (2), *Platycheirus nearcticus* (1), *Syrirta pipiens* (5).

In order to relate the human UV strength scores to the spectra I summed the area under the spectral curves for the UV portions of the spectra (300 – 400 nm). This gave me an UV brightness value for both black and UV reflecting yellow areas of the hoverflies' thoraxes and abdomens. I then had the same four volunteers as I had used earlier rank the UV colour strength of all the areas that were measured with the microspectrophotometer based this time on UV photos. The volunteers were instructed to use the same ranking as before: 0 (none), 1 (weak) or 2 (strong). This allowed me to test whether humans were able to accurately predict the amount of UV reflection based on photographs.

Statistical analysis of microspectrophotometry data

My primary aim here was to evaluate whether human-based evaluations based on photographs could be related to the micro spectrophotometer UV brightness measurements. To do this, I fitted two general linear mixed models to the compiled data with $\log(\text{UV brightness value})$ as a continuous response variable, body part (thorax or abdomen) as a binomial predictor (fixed factor) and human volunteer ID and specimen ID as random effect variables. To test whether human scores reflected microspectrophotometer UV values, I also included human UV strength score as a continuous predictor in the first model and dropped it from a second model to compare the fit. I did not include visible colour as a predictor variable in either model since I was only interested in the UV portion of the spectrum. I then used Akaike's Information Criterion (AIC) to determine the best model.

Results

Photography

The majority of the hoverfly and hymenopteran species I photographed had markings which were visible in the UV photographs: 60 out of the 80 hoverfly species/varieties had UV reflecting colour, while 44 out of the 67 hymenopteran species had UV reflecting colour (**Table 7**).

Table 7. Hoverfly mimics and their proposed hymenopteran models. **Blue** – bee species; **Red** – wasp species; **Bolded** – UV reflecting colour present in at least one body section. Mimic and model pairings were compiled from: Howarth et al., 2000; Howarth and Edmunds, 2000; Edmunds and Reader, 2014.

Mimic	Proposed models
<i>Lejops (Anasimyia) contracta</i>	<i>Epeolus variegatus, Epeolus cruciger</i>
<i>Eurimyia lineatus (Anasimyia lineata)</i>	<i>Coelioxys inermis</i>
<i>Lejops (Anasimyia) transfugus</i>	<i>Epeolus variegatus, Epeolus cruciger</i>
<i>Sericomyia (Arctophila) superbiens</i>	<i>Bombus pascuorum, B. humilis, B. muscorum</i>
<i>Baccha elongata</i>	<i>Trypoxylon attenuatum, T. clavicerum</i>
<i>Blera fallax</i>	<i>Osmia bicolor, Osmia aurulenta</i>
<i>Xylota (Brachypalpoides) lenta</i>	<i>Astata boops</i>
<i>Brachypalpus (Brachypalpus) valgus</i> <i>(Brachypalpus laphriformis)</i>	<i>Apis mellifera</i>
<i>Caliprobola speciosa</i>	<i>Dolichovespula sylvestris</i>
<i>Chalcosyrphus (Xylotomima) nemorum</i>	<i>Ectemnius continuus</i>
<i>Cheilosia albipila</i>	<i>Andrena apicata</i>
<i>Cheilosia chrysocoma</i>	<i>Andrena fulva</i>
<i>Cheilosia fraterna</i>	<i>Lasioglossum albipes, L. fratellum</i>
<i>Cheilosia corydon (Cheilosia grossa)</i>	<i>Andrena nigrodenea</i>
<i>Cheilosia illustrata</i>	<i>Andrena cineraria, Bombus pratorum, B. sylvarum</i>
<i>Cheilosia impressa</i>	<i>Lasioglossum albipes, L. fratellum</i>
<i>Cheilosia mutabilis</i>	<i>Lasioglossum albipes, L. fratellum</i>
<i>Cheilosia nebulosa</i>	<i>Lasioglossum albipes, L. fratellum</i>
<i>Cheilosia pagana</i>	<i>Lasioglossum albipes, L. fratellum</i>
<i>Cheilosia tarditas (Cheilosia scutellata)</i>	<i>L. albipes, L. fratellum</i>
<i>Cheilosia vernalis</i>	<i>Lasioglossum albipes, L. fratellum</i>
<i>Chrysotoxum arcuatum</i>	<i>Vespula vulgaris, Dolichovespula norvegica.</i>

	<i>Dolichovespula sylvestris</i> , <i>Vespula austriaca</i> , <i>Vespula germanica</i> , <i>Vespula rufa</i>
<i>Chrysotoxum bicinctum</i>	<i>Argogorytes mystaceus</i>
<i>Chrysotoxum cautum</i>	<i>Vespula vulgaris</i> , <i>Dolichovespula norvegica</i> . <i>Dolichovespula sylvestris</i> , <i>Vespula austriaca</i> , <i>Vespula germanica</i> , <i>Vespula rufa</i>
<i>Criorhina asilica</i>	<i>Apis mellifera</i>
<i>Criorhina berberina</i> typical form	<i>Bombus pratorum</i> , <i>B. sylvarum</i> <i>B. pascuorum</i> , <i>B. terrestris</i>
<i>Criorhina berberina</i> var. <i>oxyacanthae</i>	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i> , <i>B. humilis</i> , <i>B. muscorum</i>
<i>Criorhina floccosa</i>	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i> , <i>B. humilis</i> , <i>B. muscorum</i>
<i>Criorhina ranunculi</i>	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i> , <i>B. lucorum</i> , <i>B. ruderarius</i> , <i>B. terrestris</i>
<i>Dasysyrphus tricinctus</i>	<i>Nysson spinosus</i>
<i>Doros profuges</i>	<i>Ancistrocerus antilope</i>
<i>Epistrophe (Epistrophe) grossulariae</i>	<i>Vespula vulgaris</i> , <i>Dolichovespula norvegica</i> . <i>Dolichovespula sylvestris</i> , <i>Vespula austriaca</i> , <i>Vespula germanica</i> , <i>Vespula rufa</i>
<i>Epistrophe (Epistrophe) nitidicollis</i>	<i>Vespula vulgaris</i> , <i>Dolichovespula norvegica</i> . <i>Dolichovespula sylvestris</i> , <i>Vespula austriaca</i> , <i>Vespula germanica</i> , <i>Vespula rufa</i>
<i>Episyrphus (Episyrphus) balteatus</i>	<i>Vespula vulgaris</i> , <i>Dolichovespula norvegica</i> . <i>Dolichovespula sylvestris</i> , <i>Vespula austriaca</i> , <i>Vespula germanica</i> , <i>Vespula rufa</i>
<i>Eriozona (Eriozona) syrphoides</i>	<i>Bombus pratorum</i> , <i>Bombus sylvarum</i> , <i>Bombus terrestris</i>
<i>Eristalis (Eoseristalis) arbustorum</i>	<i>Apis mellifera</i>
<i>Eristalis (Eoseristalis) intricaria</i> females	<i>Bombus terrestris</i> , <i>B. hortorum</i> , <i>B. jonellus</i> , <i>B. lucorum</i> , <i>B. magnus</i> , <i>B. soroeensis</i> , <i>Psithyrus barbutellus</i> , <i>P. bohemicus</i> , <i>P. vestalis</i>

<i>Eristalis (Eoseristalis) intricaria</i>	<i>Bombus pratorum, B. sylvarum</i>
<i>Eristalis (Eoseristalis) pertinax</i>	<i>Apis mellifera</i>
<i>Eristalis (Eoseristalis) rupium</i>	<i>Apis mellifera</i>
<i>Eristalis (Eristalis) tenax</i>	<i>Apis mellifera</i>
<i>Eumerus strigatus</i>	<i>Osmia caerulescens, Hoplitis claviventris</i>
<i>Eumerus tuberculatus</i>	<i>Osmia caerulescens, Hoplitis claviventris</i>
<i>Ferdinandea cuprea</i>	<i>Andrena apicata</i>
<i>Helophilus (Helophilus) hybridus</i>	<i>Vespula vulgaris, Dolichovespula norvegica, Dolichovespula sylvestris, Vespula austriaca, Vespula germanica, Vespula rufa</i>
<i>Helophilus (Helophilus) pendulus</i>	<i>Vespula vulgaris, Dolichovespula norvegica, Dolichovespula sylvestris, Vespula austriaca, Vespula germanica, Vespula rufa</i>
<i>Helophilus (Helophilus) trivittatus</i>	<i>Vespula vulgaris, Dolichovespula norvegica, Dolichovespula sylvestris, Vespula austriaca, Vespula germanica, Vespula rufa</i>
<i>Lejops (Lejops) vitattus</i>	<i>Coelioxys inermis</i>
<i>Mallota (Mallota) cimbiciformis</i>	<i>Apis mellifera</i>
<i>Merodon (Merodon) equestris</i>	<i>Bombus terrestris, B. lucorum, B. muscorum, B. pascuorum, B. ruderarius</i>
<i>Microdon (Microdon) mutabilis</i>	<i>Anthophora furcata, Andrena chrysoceles</i>
<i>Neoscia (Neoasciella) geniculata</i>	<i>Stigmus solskyi, Crossocerus megacephalus, C. ovalis, C. elongatulus, C. wesmaeli</i>
<i>Neoscia (Neoasciella) interrupta</i>	<i>Stigmus solskyi, Crossocerus megacephalus, C. ovalis, C. elongatulus, C. wesmaeli</i>
<i>Neoscia (Neoasciella) meticulosa</i>	<i>Stigmus solskyi, Crossocerus megacephalus, C. ovalis, C. elongatulus, C. wesmaeli</i>
<i>Neoscia (Neoasciella) obliqua</i>	<i>Stigmus solskyi, Crossocerus megacephalus, C. ovalis, C. elongatulus, C. wesmaeli</i>
<i>Neoscia (Neoscia) podagrica</i>	<i>Stigmus solskyi, Crossocerus megacephalus, C.</i>

	<i>ovalis, C. elongatulus, C. wesmaeli</i>
<i>Neoascia (Neoascia) tenur</i>	<i>Stigmus solskyi, Crossocerus megacephalus, C. ovalis, C. elongatulus, C. wesmaeli</i>
<i>Orhonevra splendens</i>	<i>L. albipes, L. fratellum</i>
<i>Parasyrphus annulatus</i>	<i>Vespula vulgaris, Dolichovespula norvegica. Dolichovespula sylvestris, Vespula austriaca, Vespula germanica, Vespula rufa</i>
<i>Parhelophilus frutetorum</i>	<i>Vespula rufa</i>
<i>Pocota personata</i>	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>
<i>Pyrophaena (Pyrophaena) granditarsa</i>	<i>Nomada fabriciana, Andrena labiata, Andrena marginata, Sphecodes spinulosus</i>
<i>Rhingia (Rhingia) campestris</i>	<i>Andrena marginata, Sphecodes gibbus</i>
<i>Scaeva pyrastris</i>	<i>Bombix rostrata</i>
<i>Sericomyia (Sericomyia) lappona</i>	<i>Anthophora quadrimaculata, Andrena flavipes, Andrena labialis</i>
<i>Sericomyia (Sericomyia) silentis</i>	<i>Vespula vulgaris, Dolichovespula norvegica. Dolichovespula sylvestris, Vespula austriaca, Vespula germanica, Vespula rufa</i>
<i>Sphegina (Sphegina) clunipes</i>	<i>Psenulus pallipes</i>
<i>Sphegina (Sphegina) elegans (Sphegina kimakowiczi)</i>	<i>Psenulus pallipes</i>
<i>Sphegina (Sphegina) verecunda</i>	<i>Psenulus pallipes</i>
<i>Syrphus (Syrphus) ribesii (Sythus ribesii)</i>	<i>Vespula vulgaris, Dolichovespula norvegica. Dolichovespula sylvestris, Vespula austriaca, Vespula germanica, Vespula rufa</i>
<i>Syrphus (Syrphus) torvus (Sythus torvus)</i>	<i>Vespula vulgaris, Dolichovespula norvegica. Dolichovespula sylvestris, Vespula austriaca, Vespula germanica, Vespula rufa</i>
<i>Syrphus (Syrphus) vitripennis (Sythus vitripennis)</i>	<i>Vespula vulgaris, Dolichovespula norvegica. Dolichovespula sylvestris, Vespula austriaca,</i>

	<i>Vespula germanica, Vespula rufa</i>
<i>Tropidia (Tropidia) scita</i>	<i>Nomada ruficornis, N. fabriciana</i>
<i>Volucella bombylans haemorrhoidalis</i>	<i>Bombus pratorum</i>
<i>Volucella bombylans var. bombylans</i>	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>
<i>Volucella bombylans var. plumata</i>	<i>Bombus terrestris, B. hortorum, B. jonellus, B. lucorum, B. magnus, B. soroeensis, Psithyrus barbutellus, P. bohemicus, P. vestalis</i>
<i>Volucella inanis</i>	<i>Vespa crabro</i>
<i>Volucella zonaria</i>	<i>Vespa crabro</i>
<i>Xanthogramma festiva (Xanthogramma citrofasciatum)</i>	<i>Nomada goodeniana, N. fulvicornis</i>
<i>Xanthogramma pedissequum</i>	<i>Crabro cribrarius</i>

There was a significant relationship between mimics and their models for thorax and abdomen UV colour strength (thorax: $T_B(78) = 0.224$, $p = 0.01$; abdomen: $T_B(78) = 0.419$, $p < 0.001$), but not for head or leg colour strength (head: $T_B(78) = 0.156$, $p = 0.064$; legs: $T_B(78) = 0.186$, $p = 0.057$; **Figure 10**).

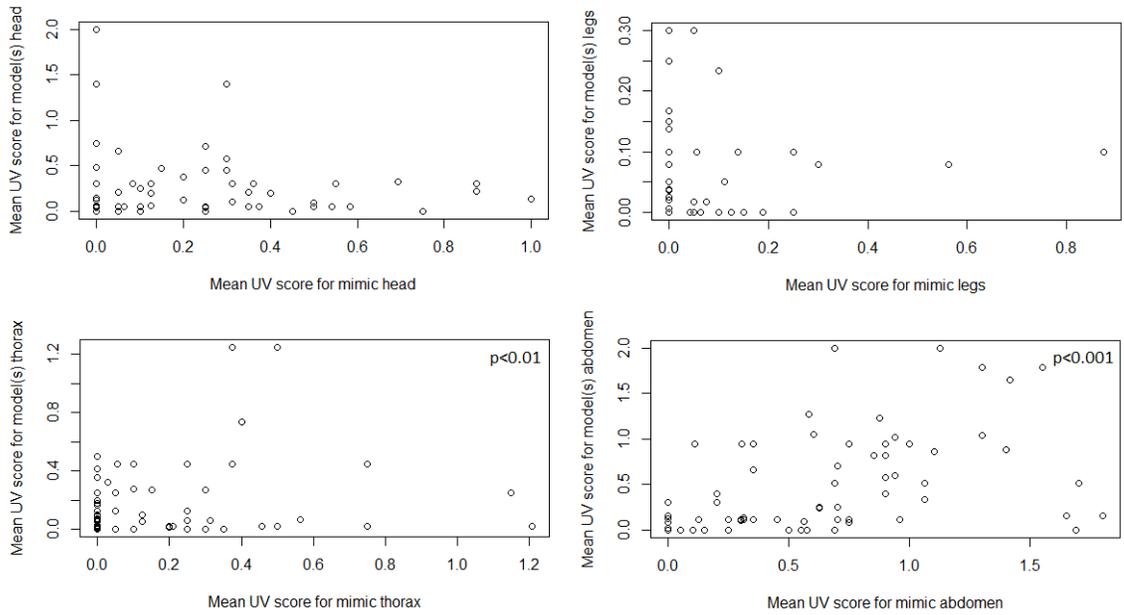


Figure 10. The mean UV colour strength score for of model(s) versus the mean UV colour strength score for the associated mimic for all four body regions. Results are marginally nonsignificant for head and legs, but significant for thorax and abdomen regions (head: $T_B(78) = 0.156$, $p = 0.064$; legs: $T_B(78) = 0.186$, $p = 0.057$; thorax: $T_B(78) = 0.224$, $p = 0.01$; abdomen: $T_B(78) = 0.419$, $p < 0.001$).

Mimics were also significantly more similar (less different) to their own models than to non-models in terms of their UV colour strength ($t_{79} = -3.492$, $p < 0.001$; **Figure 11**).

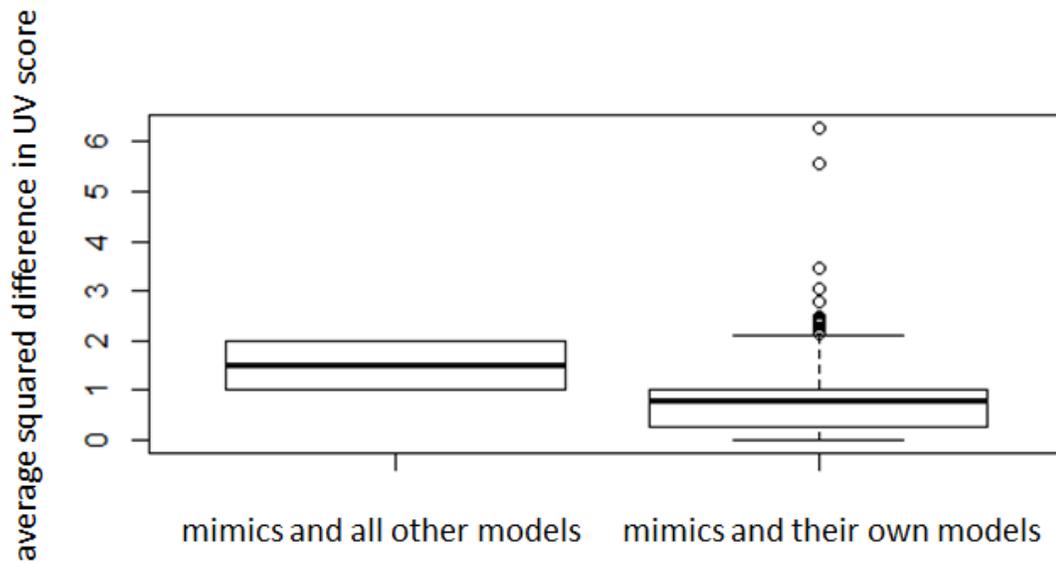
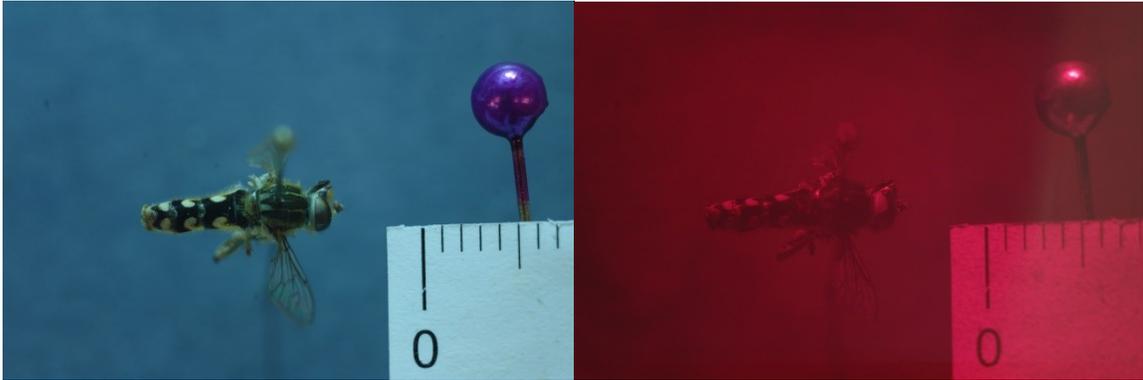


Figure 11. The average squared difference between the UV colour strength scores of a mimic and models. Each mimic species was compared to its own model(s) and to non-models. Results are significant ($t(79) = -3.492, p < 0.001$).

UV reflecting colour was more common in bees (88% of species) than in wasps (25%; $\chi^2_1 = 24.7, p < 0.001$). The reflecting colour was either found on the insect's cuticle or pile and the abdomen was the most common location for UV reflecting colour. The visible colours that reflected UV were white, yellow and pale orange (however visible colour cannot be used as a UV predictor since these colours did not always reflect UV; **Figure 12**).

A)



B)

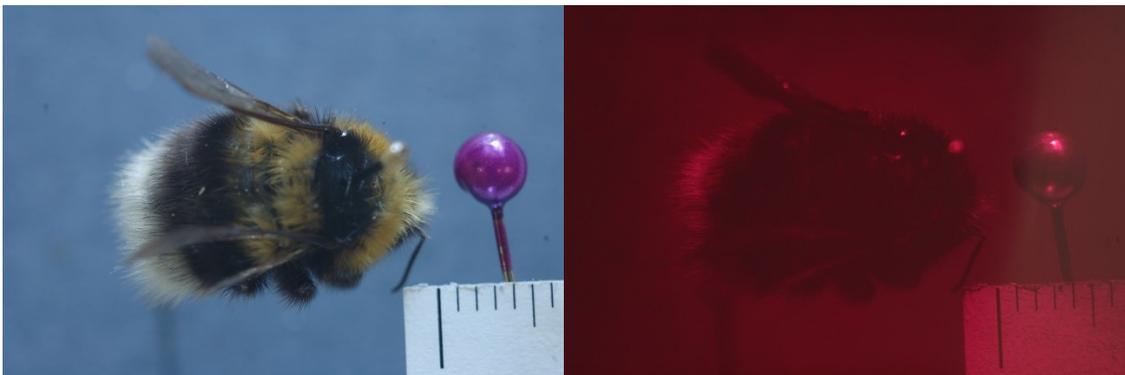


Figure 12. Two examples of the different types of UV colour. A) Cuticle colour (yellow in the human visible spectrum). B) Pile colour (white in the human visible spectrum).

Microspectrophotometry

All markings or body areas that were UV reflective in the photographs showed reflectance in the UV spectrum as measured by the microspectrophotometer (abdominal yellow) whereas areas without UV reflection in the photographs had much lower reflectance in the UV spectrum (abdominal black; **Figure 13**; **Figure 14**). The UV brightness values were best explained using model one, which included the human UV strength scores ($\chi^2_1 = 199.126$, $p < 0.001$). This means that the human UV strength scores correlate with the UV reflection (after controlling for human subject and specimen ID).

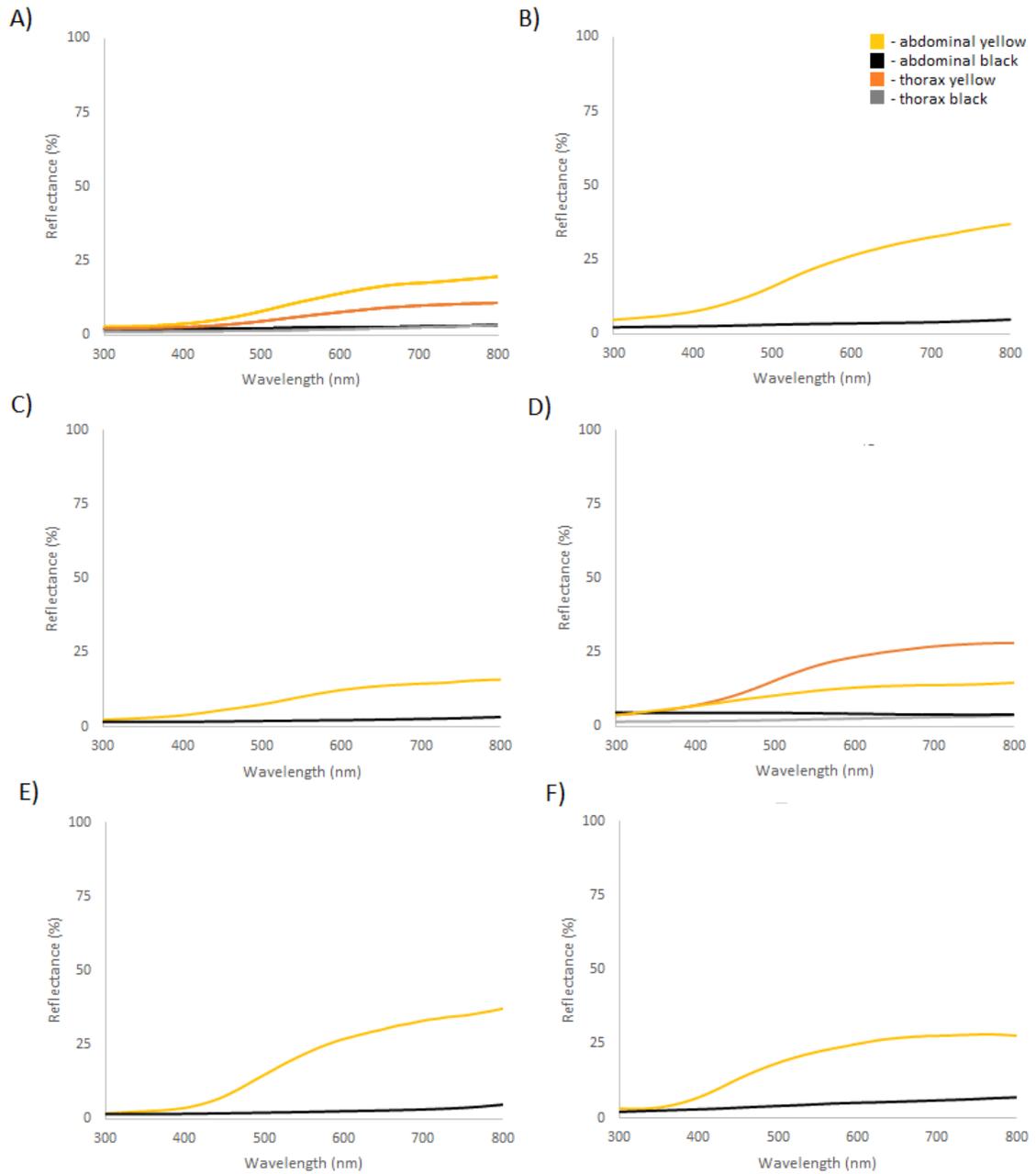


Figure 13. Averaged reflectance spectra for yellow thorax and abdominal colour and black thorax and abdominal colour for six species of hoverfly: A) *Anasimyia lunulatus* (1), B) *Eristalis arbustorum* (5), C) *Eupeodes americanus* or *pomus* (1), D) *Eurimyia lineatus* (1), E) *Parasyrphus genualis* (2), F) *Platycheirus nearcticus* (1).

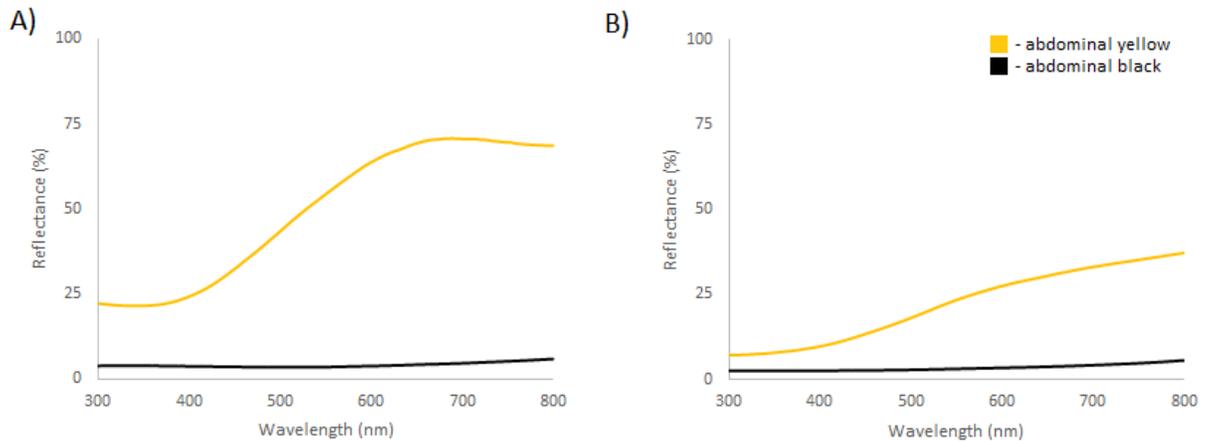


Figure 14. Averaged reflectance spectra for the yellow abdominal colour and the black abdominal colour of two species of hoverfly: A) *Chalcosyrphus nemorum* (2), B) *Syrirta pipiens* (5).

Discussion

The majority of the species measured had fairly low reflectance in the UV spectrum (300 – 400) with an increase in reflectance just before 400 nm (**Figure 13**). This increase in reflectance in the high 300s is therefore what is causing the UV patterns in the UV photographs. Interestingly, despite the low reflectance in most species, *S. pipiens* showed a higher, and more even, reflectance from 300 to 400 nm (**Figure 14**). The UV reflection in these species is likely caused by gaps in the layer of yellow pigment which allow the reflective cuticle to be exposed and reflect UV wavelengths of light. *C. nemorum* had very high reflectance in the UV, as well as a strikingly different yellow spectral curve (**Figure 14**). It is possible that this species has a different mechanism for creating its yellow colour (because of its strikingly different reflectance curve) and it may have structural colour as opposed to pigments.

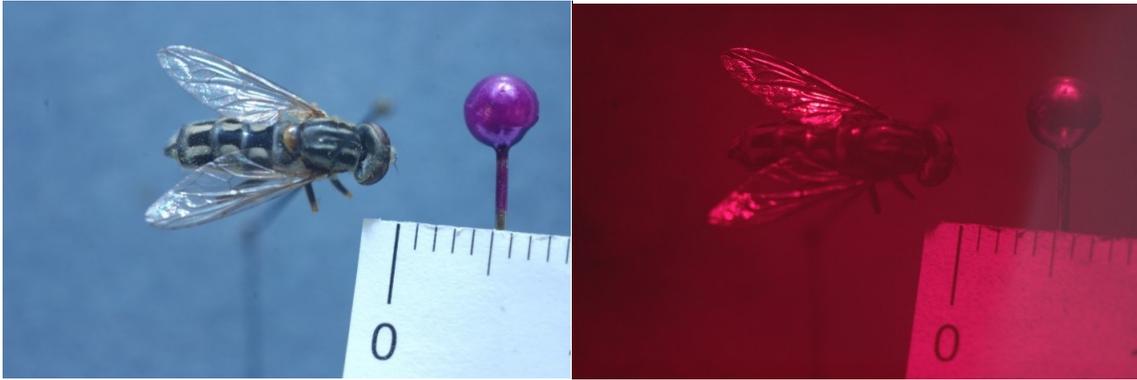
Although I was unfortunately unable to measure the actual spectra of the majority of the species examined, I did ensure that the human UV strength scores were meaningful indicators of the actual UV reflectance of a specimen, thereby validating this method.

UV reflecting colour was widespread in both the hoverfly and hymenopteran species examined. Although reflection in the UV spectrum is not special in any way, added

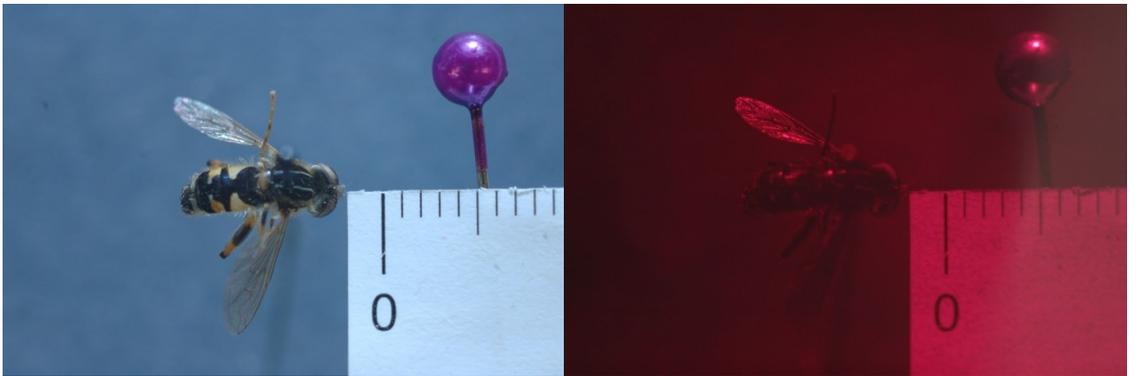
reflection in the UV spectrum would increase the contrast of warning markings by increasing the brightness of the yellow or white body markings. Leaves and the majority of flowers are UV absorbing, and so by reflecting UV these insects would also increase their contrast against their natural backgrounds (Frohlich, 1976; Kevan et al., 1996). The relationship between mimic and model UV was non-significant for the head and leg body regions, but significant for the thorax and abdomen, with the strongest significance found for the abdomen. This makes sense because the majority of the patterns in these species are found on the abdomen, with some extending onto the thorax as well. Therefore there would be the strongest selection pressure on mimics to match their model's colours in these body regions, since predators would likely focus on them when learning which prey items were good to eat. The mimic and model groupings that I used for this study were created by humans using only the visible spectrum. The fact that the majority of these groupings hold up when analyzed solely using UV light (mimics are significantly more similar to their models than other non-models in UV) provides us with strong supportive evidence that the groupings are generally correct i.e. that models have not been frequently misassigned. It also provides further evidence that our UV scores are meaningful, in that such strong relationships in UV similarity are unlikely to arise by chance. The majority of the hoverflies measured by Taylor et al. (2016) did not have UV reflective colour however they primarily focused on wasp mimics and, as I discovered, UV reflective colour was more common in bees and therefore bee mimics.

However, it is important to note that there were several species of hoverfly that were in fact found to be more similar to all other models than to their own. The two most extreme outliers were *Lejops vittatus* and *Anasimyia lineata*. Interestingly, both these species were described as having only a single model: *Coelioxys inermis*. In this case the model species reflected UV more strongly than either of the mimics and so would appear a different colour to predators (**Figure 15**).

A)



B)



C)

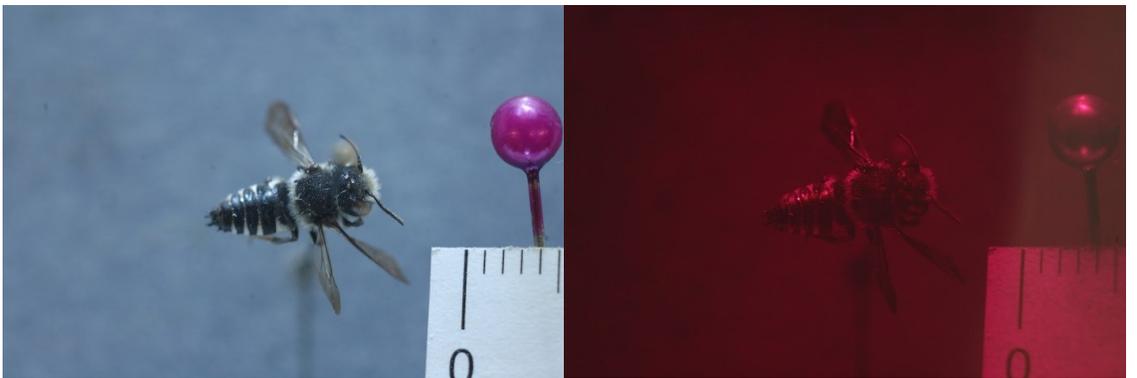


Figure 15. Visible and ultraviolet photos of A) *Lejops vittatus*, B) *Anasimyia lineata* and their bee model C) *Coelioxys inermis*.

I believe that these mimics may have been assigned to the wrong model and could even be examples of “ugly ducklings” (imperfect mimics (“ducks”) that are actually much more perfect (“swans”) when matched with the correct model (Sherratt and Peet-Paré, under revision). Identifying poor mimic/model matches in the UV spectrum therefore has the potential to be a useful tool for assessing the validity of existing mimic/model groupings. The fact that there are no hard rules when it comes to predicting UV reflecting colour in hoverflies and hymenopterans means that UV photography or spectrophotometry must always be used to determine the presence of UV reflecting colour. The one exception to this seems to be white pile: all white pile was at least partially UV reflective and I therefore believe it is likely that all hymenopterans and hoverflies with white pile will be UV reflective, with abundant white pile resulting in a strong UV reflection. Although our findings primarily bolster the mimic and model groupings made using human vision they are also an important reminder that prey have evolved to fool their predators and that without considering a predator’s perspective we have a narrowed and incomplete view.

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Appendices

Supplementary data for Table 3

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