Compact hexa-band bio-inspired antenna using asymmetric microstrip feeding technique for wireless applications

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ABSTRACT
A compact Hexa-band Bio-inspired antenna is presented in this paper. The structure of the proposed antenna is realized from a semi-Vine-leaf shape, Defected Ground Structure (DGS) and arc-slots techniques. The total dimension of the antenna is $0.35\lambda_d \times 0.14\lambda_d$, where $\lambda_d$ is the guided wavelength at low frequency (2.37GHz). The design begins with a semi-Vitis vinifera leaf-shaped radiating patch monopole structure, fed with an asymmetric microstrip feedline to achieve compactness. Five (5) arcs are then introduced on the radiating patch of the initiator with an intention to create band notches and thereby results in multiband and further miniaturization. The proposed antenna is analyzed, simulated and fabricated. The measurement results of the proposed antenna show that the antenna operates at 2.37GHz, 3.06GHz, 3.52GHz, 4.28GHz, 4.88GHz, and 6.0GHz with a -10dB fractional bandwidth of 11.97%, 4.61%, 12.43%, 6.77%, 2.46%, and 11.55% respectively. The peak gain of the proposed antenna is 3.21 dBi. The radiation patterns of the proposed antenna are Bi-directional at XZ-plane and XY-plane, but Omnidirectional at YZ-plane. Owing to the compactness of the antenna, suitable radiation pattern, acceptable gain and high radiation efficiency, the proposed antenna is suitable for several applications such as Industrial, Scientific and Medical (ISM) Band, Radar, WiMAX, 5G mid-band, Bluetooth, WLAN, WiMAX, LTE, and Wi-Fi. The contributions of this work are: (i) the use of asymmetric microstrip feedline for miniaturization purpose contrary to the commonly used asymmetric coplanar strip; (ii) simple formulation for the predictions of notch bands introduced by the slit on the radiating patch; and (iii) presentation of ultra-compact hexa-band antenna compared to the existing multiband antenna.

1. Introduction

Wireless communication has evolved over the years with several bands in different nations of the world. This has necessitated the need for multiband antennas. Antenna, being the backbone of wireless communication, determines the size of such devices. Nowadays, Antennas with compact-size, multiband accompany with suitable gain and radiation pattern are on ever increasing demand in wireless communication markets.

Over the years, the attention of researchers has been directed in this direction and the majority of the works in the literature have concentrated on multiband antennas for WLAN, WiMAX and ISM band applications [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18]. Nonetheless, with the recent deployment of 5G technology, it is necessary to incorporate some of its proposed operating frequency bands with other existing bands while ensuring compactness.

In achieving multiband antenna, slot etching on the ground plane or on the radiating patch has been used in the literature to achieve multi-frequency resonances [1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 19]. Metamaterial has also been used for multiband antennas realization as reported by authors in [3, 16]. Furthermore, the authors in [12], and [14] have used electromagnetic Band Gap (EBG) and meandering to realize compact multiband antennas. Parasitic loading has also been used by authors in [20] for multiband antenna realization. One of the advantages of patch antennas is the availability of different feeding techniques such as coaxial, microstrip, coplanar waveguide (CPW).
Coplanar waveguide can be divided into symmetrical and asymmetrical coplanar waveguide. Due to the benefits presented by CPW such as small radiation leakage, less dispersion, the independence of its characteristic impedance on the thickness of the substrate, uni-planar and ease of integration with other microwave devices, it has been popularly employed as the feeding techniques of patch antennas.

For symmetrical CPW, the strip is situated at the center of the two ground planes \([6, 7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 21]\). On the other hand, Asymmetric CPW usually referred to as asymmetric coplanar strip (ACS) has a strip shifted from the center of the ground plane and usually has its ground plane on one side of the strip \([15, 22]\). ACS, along with the benefit of CPW, gives a high degree of freedom to achieve compact structure. In this work, an Asymmetric microstrip fed antenna is proposed.

The contributions of this work are as follows: (i) the use of asymmetric microstrip feedline for miniaturization purpose contrary to the commonly used asymmetric coplanar strip; (ii) simple formulation for the predictions of notch bands introduced by the slit on the radiating patch; and (iii) presentation of ultra-compact hexa-band antenna compared to the existing multiband antennas.

2. Antenna design and analysis

The Bio-inspired asymmetric microstrip fed antenna (BioAs-MPAs) proposed in this work is based on a Semi-Vine-leaf radiating patch structure with an asymmetric microstrip feedline. A typical Vine-leaf is as shown in Figure 1. The motivation behind the choice of Vine-leaf is due to the saw-toothlike shape of its edge which increases the perimeter of the structure. The evolution of the proposed structure is presented in Figure 2 and the optimized design parameters are presented in Table 1.
The values of parameters in Table 1 are derived from the parametric study of the proposed structure. First, we start with an unslotted semi-Vine-leaf shape having a total perimeter ($\psi$) of 70.5 mm on a Duroid 5880 substrate with a thickness of 1.57 mm as shown in Figure 2a. The perimeter of the proposed radiating patch is determined from its co-ordinates by using Eq. (1). The coordinate of the proposed patch is given in Table 2. The resonance of the proposed structure can be predicted by using Eq. (2) [23]. Secondly, arc-slots (S1, S2, S3, S4 and S5) are introduced as shown in Figure 2b. The arc-slots are carefully designed by employing quarter wavelength strips. The design of the arc strip is done using Eqs. (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), and (11) and the optimized arc-slot design parameters with the resonant frequency of the respective strips are presented in Table 3. where; $N = 46$ from Table 2 and

$$\psi = \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} \sqrt{(x_{n+1} - x_n)^2 + (y_{n+1} - y_n)^2}$$

$$f_r \approx \frac{300}{\psi \sqrt{\varepsilon_{\text{eff}}}}$$

$\psi$ is the perimeter of the patch, $\varepsilon_{\text{eff}}$ is the effective relative permittivity. According to the theory of strip line [24], the strip used for slitting in this work is formulated as follows:

$$l_i = \frac{\lambda_i}{4}$$

$$\lambda_i = \frac{c}{f_i}$$

Where, $l_i$ is the length of the $i$th strip, $\lambda_i$ is the free space wavelength of $i$th strip, and $f_i$ is the resonance frequency of the $i$th strip in air. Considering the permittivity of the dielectric, the resonance frequency of $i$th strip becomes

$$f_i = \frac{c}{\lambda_{\text{eff}} i}$$

Where $\lambda_{\text{eff}}$ is the wavelength in the dielectric of the $i$th strip and it is defined as;

| Parameter | $W_{\text{sub}}$ | $W_g$ | $W_f$ | $W_1$ | $L_{\text{sub}}$ |
|-----------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| Value (mm)| 12             | 6     | 2.9   | 0.9   | 30              |
| Parameter | $L_g$ | $L_f$ | $L_1$ | $L_2$ |
| Value (mm)| 9     | 17    | 11.9  | 5.6   |

Table 1. The optimized design parameters of the proposed structure.

| Semi-Vine-leaf co-ordinate points | n | X | Y |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 1                                 | 9.6 | -1.6 |
| 2                                 | 8.4 | -2.2 |
| 3                                 | 10.6 | -2.9 |
| 4                                 | 9.2 | -3.3 |
| 5                                 | 10.0 | -3.9 |
| 6                                 | 9.2 | -4.0 |
| 7                                 | 9.0 | -5.0 |
| 8                                 | 7.8 | -4.8 |
| 9                                 | 7.6 | -6.7 |
| 10                                | 6.6 | -6.1 |
| 11                                | 5.8 | -7.4 |
| 12                                | 5.4 | -7.0 |
| 13                                | 5.0 | -7.6 |
| 14                                | 4.8 | -7.2 |
| 15                                | 3.8 | -8.0 |

Table 2. The coordinates of the Semi-Vine-leaf-shape used as the radiating patch.

| Arc-Strip (S) | $R_1$ (mm) | $r_1$ (mm) | $\phi_i$ (°) | $\delta$ (mm) | $g$ (mm) | $l_i$ (mm) | $f_r$ (GHz) |
|---------------|------------|------------|--------------|---------------|----------|------------|-------------|
| $S_1$         | 5.000      | 5.250      | 236.57       | 0.286         | 11.30    | 21.70      | 2.735       |
| $S_2$         | 4.275      | 4.525      | 247.51       | 0.306         | 8.90     | 19.50      | 3.033       |
| $S_3$         | 3.550      | 3.800      | 230.66       | 0.253         | 8.60     | 15.30      | 3.875       |
| $S_4$         | 2.825      | 3.075      | 246.11       | 0.256         | 6.10     | 13.20      | 4.488       |
| $S_5$         | 2.100      | 2.350      | 306.68       | 0.256         | 2.20     | 12.60      | 4.713       |
\[ \lambda_d = \frac{\lambda_i}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_r}} \quad (7) \]

Hence,

\[ f_i = \frac{c_0}{4\pi \sqrt{\varepsilon_{reff}}} \quad (8) \]

Where \( \varepsilon_{reff} \) replaces \( \varepsilon_r \) to incorporate the fringe effect and it is defined as given in Eq. (3)

\[ l_i = 2\pi r_i - g_i \quad (9) \]

\[ g_i = \frac{(\theta - \varphi_i) \times 2\pi r_i}{\theta} \quad (10) \]

\[ r_i = R_i + w \quad (11) \]

where; \( r_i \) is the external radius of the \( i \)th strip, \( R_i \) is the internal radius of the \( i \)th strip, \( w \) is the width of the strip (0.25mm), \( g_i \) is the slot-length of the \( i \)th strip, \( \theta \) is the angle of a circle (i.e., 360°), and \( \varphi_i \) is the angle subtended by an \( i \)th strip. \( \delta \) is the width of the parallel wires gap as depicted in Figure 2c.

Therefore, the arc-slots \( S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4, \) and \( S_5 \) are expected to produce band notches at 2.73GHz, 3.03GHz, 3.88GHz, 4.49GHz and 4.71GHz respectively. Hence, the realization of the realization of the multiband antenna. The proposed antenna is fed with a 50Ω feedline. The top view and the bottom layer of the fabricated proposed antenna are as shown in Fig. 3a and b respectively.

3. Result and discussion

In this section, the reflection coefficient, Radiation pattern, surface current distribution, gain and efficiency are presented.

3.1. Reflection coefficient (\( S_{11} \))

Figure 4a shows the reflection coefficient of the evolution of the proposed structure. It can be observed from Figure 4a that the initiator (Figure 2a) has two resonance frequencies at 3.86GHz and 7.32GHz with a \( S_{11} \) of -35dB and -13dB; a fractional bandwidth of 44.8% and 14.7% respectively. Similarly, the arc-slot \( S_2 \) (Ant. 2) produces a band notch at 3.9GHz as predicted earlier and results in a dual band antenna with resonance at 3.15GHz and 5.2GHz with a \( S_{11} \) of -35.2dB and -21.3dB; a fractional bandwidth of 6.7% and 57.3% respectively.

In the same light, the arc-slot \( S_3 \) (Ant. 3) gives a band notch at 4.48GHz as predicted in Table 3 which results in a dual band antenna operating at 3.36GHz and 5.6GHz with a \( S_{11} \) of -43.63dB and -23.27dB; a fractional bandwidth of 11.0% and 41.0% respectively. Finally, arc-slot \( S_5 \) (Ant. 5) gives a notch band at 4.7GHz as seen in Figure 4a and it results in dual band antenna with resonances at 4.7GHz and 5.58GHz with a \( S_{11} \) of -34.2dB and -26.1dB; a fractional bandwidth of 13.8% and 45.1% respectively. Therefore, each of the proposed arc slots results in multi-resonance with a good return loss (RL).

Consequently, all the arc-slots are then combined to achieve a robust multiband antenna as seen in Figure 4a. The addition of all the arc-slits results in Hexa-band antenna while maintaining the notches as predicted in section II. It can be seen in Figure 4b that there is no significant difference between the measurement and the simulation results. Hence,
the measured S11 results show that the proposed structure resonates at 2.37GHz, 3.06GHz, 3.52GHz, 4.28GHz, 4.88GHz, and 6.0GHz with a -10dB fractional bandwidth of 11.97%, 4.61%, 12.43%, 6.77%, 2.46%, and 11.55% respectively.

3.2. Antenna gain, radiation efficiency and radiation pattern

Figures 5, 6, and 7 show the radiation pattern in the XZ, YZ and XY plane respectively. It can be observed that the proposed antenna has a bi-directional radiation pattern on the XZ-plane (E-plane) while the radiation pattern in the YZ-plane (H-plane) is Omnidirectional in all its operating frequencies. In the XY-plane, it can be observed that the radiation pattern is bi-directional with a tilt as compared with the XZ-plane. The plot of the Co-Pol and X-pol radiation pattern of the proposed antenna presented in Figures 5, 6, and 7 shows that the proposed structure demonstrates a good X-pol purity in all the plane.

The Gain and Efficiency of the proposed antenna are presented in Fig. 8a and b respectively. It can be observed in Figure 8a that the gain of
3.3. The distribution of the surface current density

The radiation characteristics of an antenna can be well understood by analyzing its surface current distribution. Current distribution determines the electrical length ($L_e$) of the antenna at a specific resonant frequency using Eq. (12). The surface current distribution of the proposed antenna is presented in Figure 9.

\[ f_r = \frac{c}{2L_e \sqrt{\varepsilon_{eq}}} \]  \hspace{1cm} (12)

In the case of 2.4GHz, it can be observed that the current concentrates around the edge of the patch and the arc-slot S1. It shows that the arc-slot S1 contributes to the resonance at 2.4GHz as predicted in section II.

More so, at 3.1GHz, Figure 9 shows that current concentrate on the strip formed by arc-slots S1 and S2. This shows that the strip formed by the combination of the two slots S1 and S2 is the major contributor to the resonance at 3.1GHz. It is worthy of note that though the band notch is contributed to by the arc-slot S1, it shows that the strip formed by the arc-slots S2 and S3 is the major contributor to the resonance at 3.1GHz.

The proposed antenna is suitable for wireless communication with the lowest being 2.3 dBi at 2.4GHz and the highest being 3.21 dBi at 4.8GHz. The radiation efficiency of the proposed antenna is presented in Figure 8b. It can be observed that the proposed antenna has a very good radiation efficiency (71.04–100%) across its operating bands with the lowest being 71.04% at 3.1GHz.

4. Equivalent circuit design and analysis

It is a common knowledge that the antenna works with other devices in the backend such as filter, transmitter or receiver and so on. Therefore, for time domain analysis and to give the system designers insight into the EM operation of the proposed antenna, it is necessary to design its equivalent circuit. It is also a common knowledge that slotted antenna can be represented with Series-parallel combination of Resistor (R), Inductor (L) and Capacitor (C). When the slot is etched on the antenna structure, the equivalent circuit will be a combination of a series RLC in parallel to the antenna impedance which is usually denoted by a parallel RLC. With this in mind, the equivalent circuit of the proposed antenna is expected to have five (5) branches of series RLC because it has five (5)
slots. The equivalent circuit of the proposed antenna is as shown in Figure 10. The equivalent impedance \((Z_m)\) becomes,

\[
Z_m = \frac{1}{Z_{\text{2.4GHz}}} + \frac{1}{Z_{\text{3.1GHz}}} + \frac{1}{Z_{\text{3.5GHz}}} + \frac{1}{Z_{\text{4.3GHz}}} + \frac{1}{Z_{\text{4.8GHz}}} + \frac{1}{Z_{\text{5.8GHz}}},
\]

(13)

where;

\[
Z_{\text{2.4GHz}} = R_1 + j\omega L_1 + \frac{1}{j\omega C_1},
\]

(14)

\[
Z_{\text{3.1GHz}} = R_2 + j\omega L_2 + \frac{1}{j\omega C_2},
\]

(15)

\[
Z_{\text{3.5GHz}} = R_3 + j\omega L_3,
\]

(16)

\[
Z_{\text{4.3GHz}} = R_4 + j\omega L_4 + \frac{1}{j\omega C_4},
\]

(17)

\[
Z_{\text{4.8GHz}} = R_5 + j\omega L_5 + \frac{1}{j\omega C_5},
\]

(18)

\[
Z_{\text{5.8GHz}} = R_6 + j\omega L_6 + \frac{1}{j\omega C_6} + \frac{j\omega L_3 R_7}{R_6(1 - \alpha^2 L_6 C_6)}.
\]

(19)

The equivalent circuit is designed, simulated and optimized in microwave studio. The optimized value of the lump parameters is as given in Table 4. The reflection coefficient of the circuit model, EM model and measurement are presented in Figure 11. It can be observed that there is

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**Figure 7.** The Simulated Radiation pattern at XY-plane.

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**Figure 8.** (a) the Gain of the proposed antenna (b) The efficiency of the proposed antenna.
no significant difference among the $S_{11}$ of the circuit model, EM model and measurement.

5. Comparative analysis

In this section, a comparative study of the proposed antenna evolution is first presented. Then, the proposed BioAs-MPA is compared with the existing works in the literature.

5.1. Comparative analysis of the proposed antenna evolution

The applications of each of the proposed antenna evolution are presented in this section. Table 5 gives the number of band and applications of each of the evolutions. It can be observed that all the antenna produced at each evolution can be used in different applications. Therefore, it can be concluded that seven different antennas (4 dual-band, 2 Tri-band, and 1 Hexa-band) are herein presented.

Table 4. The optimized value of the circuit model of the proposed antenna.

| Parameters | $R_1$ ($\Omega$) | $R_2$ ($\Omega$) | $R_3$ ($\Omega$) | $R_4$ ($\Omega$) | $R_5$ ($\Omega$) | $R_6$ ($\Omega$) | $R_7$ ($\Omega$) |
|------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Value      | 2.5              | 8                | 7.1              | 18.01            | 32               | 63.5             | 58.3             |
| Parameters | $L_1$ ($\mu$H)   | $L_2$ ($\mu$H)   | $L_3$ ($\mu$H)   | $L_4$ ($\mu$H)   | $L_5$ ($\mu$H)   | $L_6$ ($\mu$H)   | $L_7$ ($\mu$H)   |
| Value      | 304              | 831              | 44.2             | 54               | 141              | 0.439            | 0.278            |
| Parameters | $C_1$ ($p$F)     | $C_2$ ($p$F)     | $C_3$ ($p$F)     | $C_4$ ($p$F)     | $C_5$ ($p$F)     | $C_6$ ($p$F)     | $C_7$ ($p$F)     |
| Value      | 0.0139           | 0.00347          | 0.0446           | 0.028            | 0.00813          | 2.132            | 1.781            |
5.2. Comparative analysis of the proposed antennas with recent works in the literature

In order to validate the results herein presented, a comparative study with the existing works in the literature is presented in Table 6. The guided wavelength in the substrate at the lowest resonant frequency (λd) has been used to parameterize the size.

Table 5. The comparative analysis of the proposed antenna evolution.

| S/N | Evolution | Frequencies (GHz) | Bandwidth (%) | Number of bands (Applications) |
|-----|-----------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 1   | Initiator | 3.86/7.32         | 44.8/14.7     | Dual-Band (WiMAX, Military)    |
| 2   | Ant. 1    | 2.46/4.3/6.74     | 1.2/40.9/13.8 | Tri-Band (ISM, Radar, 5G)      |
| 3   | Ant. 2    | 2.74/4.4/7.1      | 2.2/43.0/15.7 | Tri-band (Military, Radar, 5G) |
| 4   | Ant. 3    | 3.15/5.2          | 6.7/57.3      | Dual-band (Radar, WLAN)        |
| 5   | Ant. 4    | 3.36/5.6          | 11.0/41.0     | Dual-band (5G, WLAN)           |
| 6   | Ant. 5    | 3.47/5.58         | 13.8/45.1     | Dual-band (WLAN, WiMAX)        |
| 7   | Proposed Ant. | 2.4/3.1/3.52/4.3/4.8/5.8 | 11.97/4.61/12.43/6.77/2.46/11.55 | Hexa-band (ISM, LTE, radar, WiMAX, 5G, WLAN, Wi-Fi) |

Table 6. Comparative analysis of the BioAs-MPA antenna with recent works in the literature.

| REF | SIZE (λd) | FREQ (GHz) | Bandwidth (MHz) | GAIN | EFF (%) |
|-----|-----------|------------|-----------------|------|---------|
| [25] | 0.46 × 0.23 | 2.1/3.5/4.9 | 180/450/4000 | 5.4 dBi | 86% |
| [26] | 0.54 × 0.46 | 1.9/5.2/9.0 | 910/1280/2050 | NR | NR |
| [27] | 0.29 × 0.29 | 2/2.9/6 | 200/400/3400 | NR | NR |
| [28] | 0.44 × 0.49 | 1.22/1.57/2.45/3.42 | 26/90/932/172 | 1.75/3/6/3 (dBi) | 73/63/86/57 |
| [29] | 0.31 × 0.14 | 2.5/3.35/5.7 | 280/110/550 | 1.7/1.5/2.05 | 81.1/79.6/81.5 |
| [30] | 0.35 × 0.35 | 3.3/5.0/7.46/9.48 | NR | 0.4/0.28/4.19/2.05 | 46.6/50.8/72.2/50.9 |
| [31] | 0.64 × 0.73 | 1.7/2.4 | 40/50 | 23.8 (dBi) | NR |
| [32] | 0.49 × 0.35 | 2.4/3.5/5.2 | 120/340/1450 | 0.6/1.8/3.7 (dBi) | NR |
| [33] | 0.35 × 0.76 | 2.4/3.5/5.5 | 620/1700/920 | 2.15/2/1.08 (dBi) | NR |
| [34] | 0.44 × 0.57 | 3.2/3.6/4.8 | 90/80/470 | 4.63/3.45/7.15 (dBi) | NR |
| [35] | 0.38 × 0.42 | 2.48/3.49 | 340/390 | 2.4/3.5 (dBi) | NR |
| [36] | 0.50 × 0.52 | 2.4/3.5 | 200/390 | 2.25/0.88 (dBi) | 76/85 |
| [37] | 0.49 × 0.38 | 2.49/4.2/7.4 | 300/1000/800 | 2.92/4.13/5.85 (dBi) | 76.96/67.92/85.61 |
| [38] | 0.58 × 0.32 | 2.47/3.2/4.92 | 650/1450/2450 | 2.25/0.56/3.25 (dBi) | NR |
| [39] | 0.66 × 0.34 | 2.45/3.5/5.5 | 390/1080/1230 | 2.71/3.15/3.06 (dBi) | 70/65/77 |
| [40] | 0.86 × 0.86 | 2.45/3.42/5.13 | 200/600/2330 | 3.29/3.37/4.16 (dBi) | NR |
| This work | 0.35 × 0.14 | 2.37/3.1/3.52/4.3/4.8/5.8 | 280/140/440/290/120/710 | 2.3/2.61/2.44/2.46/3.21/3.14/3.15 (dBi) | 85.4/71/95.9/87.1/83.7/99.6 |

NR-not reported.
* peak value.
of narrow multiband in the open literature which is one of the contributions of this work to the existing body of knowledge.

6. Conclusion

In this paper, a bio-inspired radiating patch fed with an asymmetric microstrip line and slitting techniques have been exploited to achieve a compact Hexa-band antenna. The slits are arc-shaped which are embedded on the radiating patch. One advantage of our proposed asymmetric microstrip feeding technique is its suitability for robust antenna configuration while ensuring compactness as demonstrated in this work. The proposed antenna is suitable for Industrial, Scientific and Medical (ISM) Band, Radar, WiMAX, 5G mid-band, Bluetooth, WLAN, WiMAX, LTE, and Wi-Fi.

Declarations

Author contribution statement

Jeremiah O. ABOLADE: Conceived and designed the experiments; Performed the experiments; Analyzed and interpreted the data; Contributed reagents, materials, analysis tools or data; Wrote the paper.

Dominic B. O. KONDITI: Conceived and designed the experiments; Analyzed and interpreted the data; Contributed reagents, materials, analysis tools or data; Wrote the paper.

Vasant. M. DHARMADHIKARY: Analyzed and interpreted the data; Contributed reagents, materials, analysis tools or data; Wrote the paper.

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Data availability statement

Data included in article/supp. material/referenced in article.

Declaration of interests statement

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Additional information

No additional information is available for this paper.

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