Glyphosate residues in soil can modify plant resistance to herbivores through changes in leaf quality.

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Keywords
Glyphosate; herbicide; herbivory; Lupinus polyphyllus; plant performance; plant traits; Roundup.

ABSTRACT

- Glyphosate is the most widely used non-selective herbicide in the world. Glyphosate residues in soil can affect plant quality by modifying plant physiology, hormonal pathways and traits, with potential consequences for plants’ interactions with herbivores.
- We explored these indirect effects in the context of plant–herbivore interactions in a perennial, nitrogen-fixing herb. We quantified leaf herbivory for glyphosate-exposed and control plants grown in phosphorus-fertilized and non-fertilized soils, and assessed the impacts of glyphosate treatment on traits related to plant resistance against herbivores (leaf trichome density, leaf mass per area) and performance (aboveground biomass, root:shoot ratio, nodule number, nodule activity). Moreover, we conducted a laboratory feeding experiment to compare the palatability of leaves from glyphosate-exposed and control plants to a generalist mollusc herbivore.
- Herbivore damage and intensity in situ increased during the growing season regardless of glyphosate or phosphorus treatment. Glyphosate treatment reduced leaf trichome density but had no effect on the other plant traits considered. Herbivore damage was negatively associated with leaf trichome density. The feeding experiment revealed no difference in the feeding probability of mollusc herbivores between glyphosate-exposed and control plants. However, there was an interaction between glyphosate treatment and initial leaf area for leaf consumption by herbivores: leaf consumption increased with increasing leaf area in both groups, but at a lower rate for glyphosate-exposed plants than for control plants.
- Our results show that glyphosate residues in soil have the potential to indirectly affect aboveground herbivores through changes in leaf quality, which may have mixed consequences for folivore damage.

INTRODUCTION

Glyphosate is the most commonly used herbicide in agriculture and horticulture (Baylis, 2000; Duke & Powles, 2008). Despite claims that it degrades rapidly in ecosystems (Baylis, 2000; Duke & Powles, 2008), glyphosate residues may linger, especially in northern soils, long after application (Laitinen et al., 2009; Helander et al., 2012, 2018). Such residues can affect plant quality by modifying plant hormonal pathways and physiology, with potential consequences for plant–herbivore interactions (Fuchs et al., 2021). More specifically, glyphosate residues may disrupt the biosynthesis of plant defence-related chemical compounds that often play a crucial role in plant attractiveness to herbivores (Fuchs et al., 2021). Such disruptions might result in an increase in plant herbivore load and herbivore damage due to reductions in chemical defence and/or changes in leaf nutritional quality. Indeed, aphids have been found to be more abundant on herbicide-treated, glyphosate-tolerant crop plants than on control crop plants (Dewar et al., 2006; Albajes et al., 2009), although Lipok (2009) reported that aphids preferred non-treated crop plants to glyphosate-treated ones in a food choice experiment. However, previous studies have typically focused on the direct effects of glyphosate-based herbicides on plant–herbivore interactions by observing herbivore abundances and herbivore damage soon after sublethal herbicide application (but see Muola et al., 2021; Fuchs et al., 2022). To date, little is known about the potential indirect effects of glyphosate residues in soil on plant–herbivore interactions (Fuchs et al., 2021).

In addition to potential changes in plant chemical pathways, glyphosate residues can alter plant attractiveness to herbivores through changes in resistance and performance traits. Herbivores rarely consume plants randomly but tend to prefer large and vigorous individuals of high nutritional quality (the plant vigour hypothesis; Price, 1991). In a study of glyphosate-tolerant soybean, direct glyphosate application reduced leaf thickness (Bomfim et al., 2019), making individuals more palatable to folivores. Glyphosate has also been found to reduce nodulation (Reddy & Zabloutowicz, 2003; Zobiole et al., 2010), which can be critical for a plant’s nitrogen availability and nutrient balance. Moreover, glyphosate residues in soil or in manure fertilizer reduce the growth and reproduction of crop plants (Helander et al., 2019; Soares et al., 2019; Muola et al., 2021) and indirectly reduce plant performance in non-crops through
changes in the soil microbiota (Ramula et al., 2022). On the other hand, the opposite result has also been reported: low doses of glyphosate can induce the growth of both crop and non-crop plants (e.g. Helander et al., 2019; Mollae et al., 2020). Overall, the effects of glyphosate residues on plants likely depend on abiotic conditions, such as the level of soil phosphorus, which interacts with glyphosate in a complex manner (glyphosate competes with phosphorus for binding sites on soil particles; Helander et al., 2012; Kanissery et al., 2019). In general, glyphosate-induced effects on plants, and consequently on herbivores, can be expected to be more pronounced at high levels of soil phosphorus, when the bioavailability of glyphosate is increased, than when phosphorus level is low (Vereecken, 2005; Hebert et al., 2019). The situation is further complicated, however, by the fact that phosphorus itself is able to affect herbivore density through changes in leaf quality. For example, the addition of phosphorus was found to increase insect herbivore density and leaf damage in the invasive grass tall fescue (Graff et al., 2020).

Here, we explore the indirect effects of glyphosate residues in soil on plant–herbivore interactions by using common garden and laboratory experiments with the perennial, nitrogen-fixing herb Lupinus polyphyllus (Lindl.). The species is native to western North America and invasive in many European countries, including Finland, where this study was conducted. Lupinus polyphyllus contains alkaloids (Wink, 1984; Wink et al., 1995; Kalske et al., 2022), which are considered defence chemicals against herbivores (Wink, 1984) and are further induced by leaf damage (Wink, 1983). We addressed the following three questions: (i) do plants exposed to glyphosate residues in soil experience more leaf herbivory than control plants under common garden or laboratory conditions; (ii) do glyphosate residues modify plant resistance traits (leaf trichome density, leaf mass per area (LMA)) against herbivores and overall plant performance (aboveground biomass, root:shoot ratio, nodule number, nodule activity); and (iii) how is leaf herbivory in situ associated with plant resistance traits? We predicted that plants exposed to glyphosate residues in soil would experience more leaf herbivory than control plants due to reductions in chemical defences, particularly when phosphorus was abundant. On the other hand, reduced nodulation in plants exposed to glyphosate residues could favour lower herbivore attraction if it results in lower nitrogen content in plant tissues. We also predicted that leaf herbivory would be negatively associated with plant resistance traits (leaf trichomes, LMA) and positively associated with plant size, because herbivores tend to prefer large and vigorous individuals (Price, 1991; reviewed in Cornelissen et al., 2008) that are often highly nutritious and/or poorly chemically defended.

**Material and methods**

**Study species and experimental field**

Lupinus polyphyllus (Fabaceae) is a short-lived perennial herb that grows 50–150 cm tall (Fremstad, 2010). As a legume, the species hosts nitrogen-fixing bacteria (rhizobia) in the roots. It inhabits mesic to wet meadows and stream banks in the native range (Beuthin, 2012) and meadows, road verges and various ruderal habitats in the introduced range (Fremstad, 2010). Rosette leaves have long petioles, and each leaf consists of 10–15 leaflets, each 1–2 cm broad (Fremstad, 2010), which are covered by silky hairs. A flowering plant has one or multiple erect flowering stems, with each containing dozens of small flowers in racemes. The species reproduces mainly from seed (Fremstad, 2010; S. Ramula, personal observation).

In Finland, the species experiences considerably less herbivory than in the native range, where it hosts diverse sucking, mining and chewing herbivores (Kalske et al., 2022). In the study area, we have observed that L. polyphyllus is consumed by generalist chewing mollusc herbivores, primarily the land snail, Arianta arbustorum, but also by some lepidopteran caterpillars, such as Vanessa cardui and Amphipyrus pyramidalis. Pods are occasionally consumed by the gorse shield bug, Piezodorus lituratus. We have also detected signs of mammalian herbivores (the European hare, Lepus europaeus, and the field vole, Microtus agrestis) in the common garden.

In July 2019, we collected seeds from six populations of *L. polyphyllus* along a latitudinal gradient of about 500 km in Finland. In each population, seeds were collected from several haphazardly chosen plants that were at least 2 m apart and were stored in paper bags at room temperature.

The experimental field was established in 2013 at the Ruisalo Botanical Garden (60.4333° N, 22.1739° E) of the University of Turku, Finland, by mixing sand and peat with existing clay soil (pH 7.1) before tilling to a depth of 15 cm. It was fenced with a metal net to keep out large mammalian herbivores. The field contains 22 plots of 23 × 1.5 m each that are 1.5 m apart. Since May 2014, the plots have been tilled with a rotary tiller twice per year (May and October) to a depth of 5 cm and sprayed with 51 of either tap water (control plots) or tap water mixed with Roundup Gold® (glyphosate concentration 450 g l⁻¹, equivalent to the recommended maximum dose of 3 kg ha⁻¹), using a hand-operated pressure tank (see Helander et al., 2019 for details). Since spring 2018, half of each plot has been fertilized annually with phosphorus (Yara Ferticare™, P-K, 45 kg ha⁻¹) to create phosphorus-fertilized and ambient (non-fertilized) subplots. Crop plants ( faba bean, turnip rape, oat, potato) have been cultivated in the plots since 2016.

**Herbivory and plant traits in the common garden**

In mid-May 2020, we chose 80 fully developed seeds from each plant population for a common-garden experiment. To remove epiphytic microbes, we surface-sterilized the seeds in 0.5% commercial bleach (sodium hypochlorite) solution for 15 min and rinsed them three times with deionized water (Ryan-Salter et al., 2014). We placed hand-scarified seeds on a moist paper towel in foil containers, covered them with plastic film, and left them at room temperature for 4 days. The seedlings that emerged were then planted in plastic trays of 30 × 60 cm that were filled with sterilized potting mix (Kekkala karkea ruukutusseos®, autoclaved at 120°C, 1 bar, 20 min). The seedlings were grown in an unheated greenhouse until early June when they were transplanted into the experimental field (about a week after the end of the safety period of 14 days post-application recommended for Roundup).

We planted six seedlings (one seedling per population, spaced about 15 cm apart) in each phosphorus-fertilized and ambient subplot, resulting in 12 plants in each control or...
Glyphosate residues in soil

To analyse soil glyphosate concentrations and to verify that control plots were free from glyphosate, we collected soil samples from the experimental field in May 2020, before the glyphosate treatments. The soil samples were sent to the certified laboratory Groen Agro (https://agrocontrol.nl/en/) for the quantification of glyphosate and its main degradation product, aminomethylphosphonic acid (AMPA). Extraction was performed with a mixture of water and acidified methanol, and analyses were conducted using liquid chromatography–tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). Separation was performed with a mix mode column using a gradient based on a mixture of water and acetonitrile. The analysis confirmed that the control plots did not contain detectable residues of glyphosate or AMPA at the detection limit of 0.1 mg kg\(^{-1}\), while the glyphosate-treated plots contained 1.51 ± 0.71 mg kg\(^{-1}\) glyphosate and 1.35 ± 0.06 mg kg\(^{-1}\) AMPA.

Feeding experiment in the laboratory

To compare leaf consumption between glyphosate-exposed and control plants, we conducted a feeding experiment in the laboratory using a generalist grazing herbivore, the land snail (*A. arbustorum*, Helicidae). In mid-July 2020, we collected about 300 snails from a nearby field population of *L. polyphyllus* and kept them in a large, ventilated plastic box in a cool room on standard food (e.g. leaves of *Taraxacum* and *Chamaenerion* spp.) for 2 days. The snails had not been exposed to glyphosate-based herbicides in the field population. For the feeding experiment, we chose active snails, measured their shell width, and placed them individually in lidded plastic containers (125 mL, diameter 10 cm) without food for 24 h. A few water drops were added to each container for humidity. The snails were kept at room temperature in an unlit laboratory.

On the morning of the feeding experiment, we collected fully expanded, undamaged leaflets from all available individuals of *L. polyphyllus* in the experimental field (*n* = 237, one or two leaflets per individual), placed them individually in numbered plastic bags, transported them to the laboratory, and provided them individually to the snails. To measure leaf area at the beginning of the experiment, we photographed the leaflets with a digital camera before providing them to the snails. A leaflet (or two leaflets if small) was placed in the middle of each container with a drop of water and care was taken that the leaflets were not touched by hand throughout the experiment. The snails were allowed to feed for 6.5 h, until late evening before removing them from the containers in chronological order to ensure the same feeding time for all snails. After completing the experiment, we photographed the leaflets again to determine the leaf area consumed (cm\(^2\)) by herbivores using the LeafByte app (Getman-Pickering *et al.*, 2020).

Statistical analyses

To explore whether plants exposed to glyphosate residues in soil experienced more leaf herbivory than control plants in the common garden, we conducted a generalized linear mixed model (GLMM) for relative herbivore damage (number of damaged leaves out of all leaves per individual) and herbivore intensity (mild or severe, recorded as a binary variable) using glmmTMB::glmmTMB with a binomial distribution and logit-link function (Brooks *et al.*, 2017) in R software (R 3.5.3; R Development Core Team, 2019). We used glyphosate treatment (glyphosate, control), phosphorus (fertilized, ambient), time (late June, mid-July, late July) and all possible interactions between them as fixed categorical explanatory variables (Table 1). Plant height at a given measurement time was included as a fixed continuous variable to examine the effect of plant size on herbivory. Because height correlated positively with the number of leaves (*r* = 0.65, *P* < 0.001), we used only the former variable. Subplot nested within plot was included as a random factor, along with plant ID in order to take into account the three sets of repeated measurements taken from each plant. Population was not considered separately due to negligible among-population variation. The intensity of herbivory was assessed based on damaged plants only.

To investigate how glyphosate and phosphorus treatments were associated with plant resistance traits (leaf trichomes,
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Table 1. Results of mixed models analysing leaf herbivory (relative damage and intensity of damage) of the perennial herb Lupinus polyphyllus exposed to glyphosate residues at different soil phosphorus levels.

| Explanatory variable | Damaged leaves (%) | Intensity of damage | \( \chi^2 \) | \( P \) | \( \chi^2 \) | \( P \) |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Glyphosate (yes, no) | 0.14 0.711 1.16 | 0.281 | | | | |
| Phosphorus (ambient, fertilized) | 0.25 0.616 0.686 | 0.408 | | | | |
| Time (3 levels) | 44.35 <0.001 19.71 <0.001 | | | | | |
| Plant height | 1.10 0.295 8.12 0.004 | | | | | |
| Glyphosate × Phosphorus | 0.00 0.952 2.21 | 0.137 | | | | |
| Glyphosate × Time | 2.75 0.253 1.56 | 0.459 | | | | |
| Phosphorus × Time | 2.23 0.327 2.88 | 0.237 | | | | |
| G × P | 0.63 0.712 0.68 | 0.712 | | | | |

Subplot nested within plot and plant ID were used as random factors in both models. Intensity (mild, severe) was assessed from damaged plants only. P-values <0.05 are in bold with the degrees of freedom = 1.

LMA and overall performance (aboveground biomass, root:shoot ratio, number of nodules, nodule viability), we constructed a linear model with restricted maximum likelihood (LMM, lmer4::lmer) for LMA and aboveground biomass (square root-transformed). We used a Poisson GLMM and log-link function for leaf trichomes and the number of nodules, a beta GLMM for roots:shoot ratio, and a binomial GLMM for nodule activity (number of red nodules out of all dissected nodules). The two resistance traits were not correlated (r = −0.014, df = 219, P = 0.841) and were thus considered separately. We did not analyse survival because only six plants out of 241 died after the first few days of the experiment. In all resistance and performance models, the fixed explanatory variables were glyphosate and phosphorus treatments, and their interaction (Table 2). Plant height at the beginning of the season was included as a covariate, and subplot nested within plot was included as a random factor. Moreover, we used an LMM to explore whether relative herbivore damage in situ (proportion of damaged leaves from late July) was associated with the two resistance traits (trichome density, LMA), with subplot nested within plot included as a random factor.

Finally, we conducted a binomial GLMM for feeding probability (a leaflet was consumed = 1 or was intact = 0) and an LMM for leaf area consumed by land snails in the feeding experiment, with glyphosate treatment, phosphorus treatment and their interaction as fixed explanatory variables (Table 3). Subplot nested within plot was used as a random factor. We used snail size (shell width in mm) and initial leaf area as continuous covariates to consider size differences among snails and leaflets. For the LMM, we also included the interaction between initial leaf area and glyphosate treatment because initial leaf area affected differentially leaf consumption for glyphosate-exposed and control plants. To facilitate comparisons within this analysis, we excluded snails that did not consume anything during the experiment (90 snails).

For all LMMs, we verified model assumptions visually from residual plots and transformed the response variable when necessary to improve normality of the residuals (see above for details). For the GLMMs, we explored the residual plots for potential overdispersion and zero inflation using the DHARMa package (Hartig, 2018) and found none. The significance of the fixed variables was evaluated with an F test based on the Kenward-Roger method for LMM (lmerTest::anova; Kuznetsova et al., 2017) and with a Wald chi-square test for GLMM (car::Anova; Fox & Weisberg, 2019). All values presented in the figures are back-transformed when necessary.

Table 3. Results of mixed models analysing herbivory of the perennial herb Lupinus polyphyllus by the land snail Arianta arbustorum in a feeding experiment.

| Explanatory variable | Feeding probability | Leaf area consumed | \( F_{stat,df} \) | \( P \) | \( F_{stat,df} \) | \( P \) |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Glyphosate (yes, no) | 0.83 0.361 | 5.431,107 0.022 | | | | |
| Phosphorus (ambient, fertilized) | 0.25 0.615 | 1.25,1,18 0.278 | | | | |
| Initial leaf area | 25.96 <0.001 | 41.43,1,124 <0.001 | | | | |
| Snail size | 0.06 0.800 | 1.78,1,132 0.184 | | | | |
| Glyphosate × Phosphorus | 2.05 0.152 | 0.66,1,20 0.425 | | | | |
| Glyphosate × Leaf area | na | 6.47,1,125 0.000 | | | | |

na = not applicable in the final model.

Leaflets were collected from plants exposed to glyphosate residues at different soil phosphorus levels. Subplot nested within plot was used as a random factor. df and ddf denote the degrees of freedom in the numerator and denominator for the LMM, respectively (for the GLMM df is 1). P-values <0.05 are in bold.
RESULTS

Herbivory and plant traits in the common garden

Based on visual assessment, plants in the common garden were consumed by snails and lepidopteran caterpillars but sometimes also by European hares. Herbivory – quantified in terms of the proportion of damaged leaves of *L. polyphyllus* during the growing season – was not associated with glyphosate treatment, soil phosphorus level or plant height (Table 1). The strongest predictor of herbivore damage was time (Table 1); damage increased over the course of the growing season and was more abundant in July than in June (mean = about 30% and 15%, respectively; Fig. 1). Similarly, for plants experiencing herbivory, the intensity of leaf damage increased over time, irrespective of glyphosate and phosphorus treatments, and was more intense in late July than earlier in the growing season (Table 1; mean ± SE = 0.31 ± 0.08 in late June, 0.28 ± 0.06 in mid-July, 0.56 ± 0.07 in late July). In contrast to our prediction, shorter plants experienced more intense herbivore damage than taller plants (Table 1; intercept = 1.00 and slope ± SE = –0.089 ± 0.031 for plant height).

With respect to resistance traits, plants in the glyphosate treatment had fewer trichomes than control plants (Table 2, Fig. 2a), while phosphorus treatment had no effect on the resistance traits (Table 2). Leaf herbivory was negatively associated with leaf trichome density (LMM: \( F_{1,216} = 4.23, P = 0.041; \) intercept = 0.265, slope ± SE = –0.0006 ± 0.0003; Fig. 2b) but was not associated with leaf mass per area (LMM: \( F_{1,210} = 2.91, P = 0.089 \)).

Of the four plant performance traits considered, none was affected by glyphosate or phosphorus treatment on their own or through an interaction (Table 2).

Feeding experiment in the laboratory

Glyphosate or phosphorus treatment had no effect on the feeding probability of land snails in the laboratory, where feeding probability increased with increasing initial leaf area (intercept = 1.398, slope ± SE = 0.465 ± 0.092; Table 3). However, the feeding experiment based on the damaged leaflets revealed a significant interaction between glyphosate treatment and initial leaf area for the rate of leaf consumption by land snails (Table 3). Leaf consumption increased with increasing initial leaf area, but at a lower rate for glyphosate-exposed plants than for control plants (Fig. 3; slope ± SE = 0.238 ± 0.076 and 0.552 ± 0.119, respectively).

DISCUSSION

Glyphosate residues have been identified as a potential modulator of plant–insect interactions that can alter plant defences against herbivores (Fuchs et al., 2021) or plant nutritional quality (Zobiole et al., 2010; Gomes et al., 2014). We observed that glyphosate residues in soil had no effect on overall leaf herbivory of *L. polyphyllus* in the common garden, despite the fact that glyphosate-exposed plants had lower trichome density. Furthermore, the feeding experiment conducted in the laboratory revealed a negligible effect of glyphosate residues on the feeding probability of the generalist mollusc herbivore. However, leaf consumption differed between glyphosate-exposed and control plants relative to initial leaf area based on the data containing damaged leaflets. The mollusc herbivore consumed leaflets of glyphosate-exposed plants at a lower rate relative to their area than those of control plants. This observation is probably an artefact caused by the limited amount of food...
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provided to the herbivores in the experiment, although it might also reflect differential preferences for the two types of leaflets.

In contrast to our prediction, neither herbivore damage nor the intensity of damage differed between glyphosate-exposed and control plants during the growing season. This result contradicts that found by Helander et al. (2019), who reported that oats exposed to glyphosate residues in soil experienced more grazing by barnacle goose than untreated control oats. The discrepancy between the two studies might be due to the different plant species examined (monocots versus eudicots) and/or the use of different herbivores with different feeding types (grazing vertebrates versus chewing invertebrates) and food plant preferences. Monocots and eudicots do not systematically differ in plant hormonal responses. Monocots and eudicots do not systematically differ in plant hormonal responses. Vertebrate herbivores, particularly geese, may choose food through tasting and visual cues (e.g., Wink et al., 1993; Hassall et al., 2001), preferring shorter plants over taller ones (Hassall et al., 2001), while invertebrate herbivores often use olfactory cues to locate a host plant (Szendrei & Rodriguez-Saona, 2010; Kiss, 2017). As in the present study, Muola et al. (2021) observed no difference in the amount of chewing insect herbivore damage between glyphosate-exposed and control plants in two strawberry (Fragaria species). Likewise, a sublethal dose of glyphosate-based herbicide did not dramatically affect leaf damage by biocontrol weevils in water hyacinth, Eichhornia crassipes (Katembo et al., 2013). Overall, the strongest predictor of both herbivore damage and herbivore intensity in the present study was time; leaf herbivory increased during the growing season in all groups. This finding is not surprising, because in perennial herbs with longer leaf lifespans, herbivore damage accumulates until leaves are wilted and shed or the plant dies back.

Interestingly, although glyphosate treatment did not affect leaf herbivory in situ, we did observe that plants exposed to glyphosate residues had lower trichome density. As trichome development is regulated by phytohormones, particularly jasmonic and gibberellic acids (Khan et al., 2021), lower trichome density might be due to physiological and hormonal changes in plants induced by glyphosate residues (Gomes et al., 2014; Fuchs et al., 2021). Non-glandular leaf trichomes generally function as a chemical defence against folivores, particularly against molluscs and chewing and sucking herbivores (reviewed in Hanley et al., 2007), while glandular trichomes are fundamental in chemical defence. Indeed, we found here that relative herbivore damage was negatively associated with trichome density: herbivores were more likely to attack plants with fewer leaf trichomes. Herbivore damage in the common garden was not associated with leaf mass per area (LMA), suggesting that LMA did not act as a mechanical defence for L. polyphyllus in this case. This conflicts with our previous finding, in the same study species, that leaf area eaten by snails in a feeding experiment correlated negatively with LMA at the population level (Kalske et al., 2022). However, LMA has multiple functions, many of which are associated with photosynthetic capacity and plant vigour (Poorter et al., 2009). These other functions might have been more important in the present common garden study than as a function as a mechanical defence.

Neither glyphosate nor phosphorus treatment had effects on the performance of the study species. This result is in line with our previous findings for the same study system (Ramula et al., 2022), confirming that L. polyphyllus is not particularly sensitive to glyphosate residues or phosphorus levels in soil. Such robustness to glyphosate residues may provide a competitive advantage over other, more sensitive, herbaceous species in the agricultural or urban environments where herbicides are used. Our results are also consistent with a previous study that reported a high tolerance of the native perennial Lupinus albicaulis to sublethal doses of glyphosate-based herbicide (Olzyk et al., 2013). Although phosphorus levels were not explicitly determined during the study, we assumed that phosphorus fertilization using the manufacturer’s recommended dose would have increased soil phosphorus concentration compared to non-fertilized soil.

To conclude, based on repeated applications of glyphosate-based herbicide over multiple years, our results show that glyphosate residues in soil decrease leaf trichome density. If this decrease is a prevalent effect, glyphosate residues in soil might be expected to reduce plant resistance to herbivores. Such reduced resistance against invertebrate folivores could enhance the control of unwanted non-crop species by increasing their vulnerability to herbivores, but might be harmful for cultivated crop species. Surprisingly, folivores do not seem to be particularly attracted to glyphosate-exposed plants despite their lower leaf trichome density.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank numerous field assistants for helping with the common garden experiment, the Ruissalo Botanical Garden for providing the facilities and two anonymous reviewers for their helpful comments.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.
FUNDING
This work was supported by the Academy of Finland (#285746 and #331046 to SR, #311077 to MH) and Turku Collegium for Science, Medicine and Technology (AK).

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS
All authors designed the study, SR and AK conducted the experiments, SR performed statistical analyses and produced the first draft of the manuscript, all authors reviewed and edited the text.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT
The datasets generated and analysed during the study are available from the Dryad Digital Repository, https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.qfttddz0kn.

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