# Western University Scholarship@Western

**Biology Publications** 

**Biology Department** 

5-1-2016

# Paradoxical acclimation responses in the thermal performance of insect immunity.

Laura V Ferguson

David E Heinrichs

Brent J Sinclair

Follow this and additional works at: https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/biologypub

Part of the Biology Commons

#### Citation of this paper:

Ferguson, Laura V; Heinrichs, David E; and Sinclair, Brent J, "Paradoxical acclimation responses in the thermal performance of insect immunity." (2016). *Biology Publications*. 99. https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/biologypub/99

1	Paradoxical acclimation responses in the thermal performance of insect immunity
2 3 ⊿	Laura V. Ferguson <sup>1*</sup> , David E. Heinrichs <sup>2</sup> , Brent J. Sinclair <sup>1</sup>
5	<sup>1</sup> Department of Biology, University of Western Ontario, London, ON, Canada N6A 5B7
6 7	<sup>2</sup> Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Western Ontario, London, ON,
8	Canada N6A 5B7
9	*Author for correspondence: <u>lfergus9@uwo.ca</u>
10 11	Department of Biology, University of Western Ontario, 1151 Richmond Street N, London, ON,
12	Canada N6A 5B7. Phone: 1-519-661-2111 ext. 89158. Fax: 1-519-661-3935
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	This work is part of Ferguson's PhD, integrating ecophysiology, thermal biology, and ecoimmunology. We measured insect immune performance across temperatures, finding that thermal performance does not consistently respond to acclimation among, or even within, physiological systems. Paradoxically, cold acclimation decreases low temperature immune performance, revealing that cold tolerance trades off with immunity in the cold. Thus, physiological systems differ in their responses to temperature, and conclusions about the impacts of climate change cannot be based on a single performance measure.
20 29 30 31	Author Contributions: LVF and BJS conceived of the study and wrote the manuscript; LVF carried out the design, lab work and statistical analysis; DEH participated in the design of the study and drafting of the manuscript. All authors gave final approval for publication.

- 32 Abstract
- 33

34 Winter is accompanied by multiple stressors, and the interactions between cold and pathogen stress potentially determine the overwintering success of insects. Thus, it is necessary to explore 35 36 the thermal performance of the insect immune system. We cold-acclimated spring field crickets, 37 Grvllus veletis, to 6°C for 7d and measured the thermal performance of potential (lysozyme and 38 phenoloxidase activity) and realised (bacterial clearance and melanisation) immune responses. Cold acclimation decreased the critical thermal minimum from  $-0.5 \pm 0.25$ °C to  $-2.1 \pm 0.18$ °C, 39 and chill coma recovery time after 72 h at -2°C from  $16.8 \pm 4.9$  min to  $5.2 \pm 2.0$  min. Measures 40 41 of both potential and realised immunity followed a typical thermal performance curve, 42 decreasing with decreasing temperature. However, cold acclimation further decreased realised 43 immunity at low, but not high, temperatures; effectively, activity became paradoxically 44 specialised to higher temperatures. Thus, cold acclimation induced mismatched thermal 45 responses between locomotor and immune systems, as well as within the immune system itself. 46 We conclude that cold acclimation in insects appears to preferentially improve cold tolerance 47 over whole-animal immune performance at low temperatures, and that the differential thermal performance of physiological responses to multiple pressures must be considered when 48 49 predicting ectotherms' response to climate change.

51 Key words: cold, pathogen, thermal performance curve, biotic stressor, plasticity

52 Introduction

53 Ectotherms can respond to seasonal changes by maintaining homeostasis via phenotypic 54 or developmental plasticity. In insects, the cues that govern acclimation (in the laboratory) or acclimatisation (in the field), such as temperature or photoperiod, often coordinate diverse 55 physiological adjustments to suit a new set of environmental conditions (Harrison et al. 2012). 56 57 For example, cold-acclimation of the beetle *Dendroides canadensis* elicits antifreeze protein synthesis, removal of ice nucleators (Olsen and Duman 1997), and modification of epicuticular 58 59 waxes (Olsen et al. 1998) - all of which contribute to improved cold tolerance. In addition to cold, there are multiple abiotic and biotic stressors associated with winter (Williams et al. 2015), 60 61 and these can select for thermal plasticity in multiple physiological systems. For instance, cold-62 acclimation often increases desiccation resistance in insects, likely because of the high water vapour deficits experienced during overwintering (Sinclair et al. 2013; Terblanche et al. 2005). 63 64 Biotic stressors, such as pathogens, are also likely to affect the success of insects at low 65 temperatures (Hokkanen 1992; Riedel and Steenberg 1998; Webberley and Hurst 2002; Williams 66 et al. 2015), yet the ability of insects to manage cold-related pathogen stress, and the role of phenotypic plasticity in this response, is unclear. 67

Some insect pathogens are cold-active [e.g. fungi in the genera *Beauveria* and *Metarhizium* (Fernandes et al. 2008)], or have increased virulence at low temperatures [e.g. the bacterium *Yersinia entercolitica* (Bresolin et al. 2006)]; thus there is capacity for these coldadapted pathogens to contribute to mortality of insects at low temperatures (Hokkanen 1992; Steenberg et al. 1995). However, cold exposure appears to upregulate the insect immune system, which may allow insects to respond to cold-associated pathogen stress (Sinclair et al. 2013). For example, cold exposure increases fungal resistance in *Pyrrharctia isabella* caterpillars (Marshall

75	and Sinclair 2011) and adult Drosophila melanogaster (Le Bourg et al. 2009), and upregulates
76	genes encoding antimicrobial peptides in both D. melanogaster (Zhang et al. 2011) and the
77	solitary bee Megachile rotundata (Xu and James 2012). Further, this increased immunity appears
78	to translate into fitness: water striders (Aquarias najas) with stronger immune responses have
79	higher overwinter survival (Krams et al. 2011). Although cold-induced upregulation of immunity
80	may be a non-adaptive by-product of responses to cold (Fedorka et al. 2013; Sinclair et al. 2013),
81	the potential for conflicts between the energetic costs of immune responses (Ardia et al. 2012;
82	Freitak et al. 2003; Schmid-Hempel 2003) and energy conservation in the cold (Sinclair, in press)
83	instead suggest that the immune system is upregulated as an adaptive response to low-
84	temperature pathogen pressure (Irwin and Lee 2003; Sinclair, in press ; Williams et al. 2012).
85	However, most studies have been performed upon re-warming from cold exposure, and do not
86	necessarily reflect immune activity at low temperatures. Thus, to determine the ability of insects
87	to combat low-temperature pathogen stress, we must first explore the low-temperature
88	performance of the immune system, as well as the role of acclimation in shaping this
89	performance.
90	We expect the insect immune system to have reduced performance in the cold because it

relies on cellular and enzymatic processes that are likely temperature-sensitive (Collazos et al. 1994; Le Morvan et al. 1998; Marnila et al. 1995; Somero 1995). Indeed, phagocytosis and encapsulation decrease at 4 °C in diapausing pupae of the giant silk moth, *Samia cynthia pryeri*, although some immune function is maintained (Nakamura et al. 2011). However, this loss of performance has the potential to be mitigated through phenotypic plasticity, including the expression of cold-active isoforms of immune-related enzymes, or an increase in the concentration of cells and molecules necessary for an immune response (Angilletta 2009; Somero 1995). In either case, if there is an adaptive advantage to improved immunity at low
temperatures, then cold-acclimation would be expected to modify the thermal performance of the
immune system to increase activity at low temperatures (Angilletta 2009).

101 Thus, to understand the potential interactions of cold and immune stress in insects, and to 102 understand the role of biotic interactions in shaping ectotherm performance in a changing 103 climate, it is necessary to explore the thermal biology of the insect immune system. We explored 104 the thermal sensitivity and plasticity of the insect immune system by measuring the thermal 105 performance of immune-related enzymes in vitro, and immune responses in vivo [i.e. potential 106 immunity and realised immunity, respectively (Fedorka et al. 2007; Gershman 2008)] in warm-107 and cold-acclimated spring field crickets (Gryllus veletis). We used a short-term acclimation to 108 explore the possibility of thermal plasticity in the immune system, as a first step in understanding 109 how the thermal biology of the immune system might impact the ecology of overwintering 110 insects. Cold acclimation differentially affected realised and potential immunity, in a direction 111 that is not predicted by the whole-organism response to cold acclimation. We suggest that 112 pathogen stress may be most prevalent upon re-warming from cold, and conclude that divergent 113 thermal performance of distinct stress responses must be considered when predicting ectotherms' 114 responses to climate change.

115

#### 116 Material and Methods

We studied the thermal biology of the immune system in the spring field cricket, *Gryllus veletis. Gryllus veletis* overwinters as a late-instar nymph in temperate North America
(Alexander 1968), and has a cold acclimation response (Coello Alvarado et al. 2015). Our
cricket colony was derived from a population collected in Lethbridge, Alberta, in 2010, and were

121	reared from egg to nymph at 25 °C (14 L:10 D) as described by Coello Alvarado et al. (2015).
122	We haphazardly assigned female 6th instar nymphs (the overwintering stage) into individual 180
123	mL clear plastic cups and provided ad libitum rabbit chow (Little Friends Rabbit Food, Martin
124	Mills, Elmira, ON, Canada) and water, with cardboard shelters. We cold-acclimated (CA)
125	individuals at 6 °C on a short light cycle (10 L: 14 D) or maintained them at rearing conditions
126	(warm-acclimated, WA) for 7 d.
127	
128	Thermal limits of locomotor activity

129 We measured the critical thermal minimum ( $CT_{min}$ , the temperature at which an insect 130 enters chill coma) following MacMillan and Sinclair (2011), and chill-coma recovery (CCR) time 131 following MacMillan et al. (2012). Briefly, we cooled crickets at 0.25 °C/min from 22 °C to the 132 temperature at which movement ceased. Similarly, we measured the critical thermal maximum (CT<sub>max</sub>) by increasing temperature at 0.25 °C/min from 22 °C until we visually observed the 133 onset of spasms (Lutterschmidt and Hutchison 1997). For CCR, we cooled crickets at 0.25 134 135 °C/min from 22 °C to -2 °C and held them at -2 °C for 72 h. Crickets were returned to room 136 temperature and we recorded the time taken to achieve a coordinated righting response.

137

**138 Potential Immune Response** 

We collected haemolymph for measuring potential humoral immunity following Adamo (2004), and all measurements of potential immunity at different temperatures were tested on extracted hemolymph. We pierced the membrane under the pronotum and collected 2  $\mu$ L of haemolymph with a micropipette. We mixed 2  $\mu$ L of haemolymph with either 2  $\mu$ L of anticoagulant buffer (98 mM NaOH, 186 mM NaCl, 1.7 mM EDTA, 41 mM citric acid, pH 6.8;

144	for lysozyme activity) or 50 $\mu$ L of phosphate-buffered saline [PBS; for phenoloxidase (PO)
145	activity] and snap-froze it in liquid nitrogen, followed by storage at -80 °C.
146	To estimate the bactericidal activity of lysozyme, we followed Vilcinskas and Matha
147	(1997), with some modifications. We added 4 $\mu$ L of the haemolymph-anticoagulant-buffer
148	suspension to 2 mm diameter wells on a petri plate containing Micrococcus lysodeikticus (luteus)
149	agar (1 % agar; 67 mM potassium phosphate, pH 6.4, 0.1 mg/mL streptomycin sulfate; 5 mg/ml
150	<i>M. lysodeikticus</i> ). Plates were sealed with Parafilm <sup>®</sup> and incubated at one of 0, 6, 12, 18, 25 or 30
151	°C (MIR-153 incubators, Sanyo Scientific, Bensenville, IL, US). We then measured the area of
152	the cleared region around each well 24 and 48 h later using NIS Elements Imaging Software
153	(Nikon Instruments Inc, Melville, NY, USA).
154	Total PO activity, which indicates a potential broad-spectrum immune response, was
155	measured spectrophotometrically (Adamo 2004). Briefly, we mixed 25 $\mu$ L of thawed
156	hemoymph/PBS mixture with 70 $\mu L$ alpha-chymotrypsin (1.3 mg/ mL in PBS) and incubated it
157	for 20 min at room temperature (22 $^{\circ}$ C) before adding it to 0.9 mL of L-DOPA (4 mg/mL in
158	PBS). The rate of increase in absorbance was measured over 60 min at one of 6, 12, 18, 25, or 30
159	°C (Carey 100 Spectrophotometer with Peltier-effect Temperature Controller, Agilent, Santa

160 Clara, CA, USA).

Higher haemolymph protein concentration is linked to stronger immune responses in
insects, especially the melanisation response (Adamo 2004). To measure haemolymph protein
concentration, we followed methods as described by Adamo (2004) with some modifications.
Briefly, we used 10 µL of the haemolymph/PBS mixture in a Bicinchoninic Acid kit (BCA; Life
Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA) and measured absorbance at 562 nm in a microplate
spectrophotometer (SpectraMax, Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA, USA). We then converted

#### 169 Realised Immune Response

170 As an estimate of a broad-spectrum, realised immune response, we measured 171 melanisation by inserting a 2 mm piece of nylon filament (Krams et al. 2011) under the 172 pronotum and placing crickets at 0, 6, 12, 18, 25 or 30 °C for 12 h. We removed the filament 173 after 12 h, photographed it from two different angles at 30× magnification using a Nikon DSFI1 174 camera (Nikon Instruments Inc. Melville, NY, USA) attached to a stereomicroscope, and 175 determined the darkness of each filament using the average grey value calculated in ImageJ 176 (Rasband 1997-2014). We calculated relative melanisation as 255 - the grey value, such that a 177 higher number indicates more melanisation. 178 We measured the *in vivo* ability of crickets to clear *Staphylococcus aureus* (strain 179 Newman with chromosomally-encoded tetracycline resistance) from haemolymph following (Haine et al. 2008). Briefly, we diluted S. aureus (grown overnight at 37 °C in tryptic soy broth) 180 181 to  $1 \times 10^9$  CFU/mL in PBS and injected 2 µL of suspension into the thorax under the pronotum (Adamo 2004) via a 30 G needle. Following 24 h post-challenge at 0.5, 4, 12, 18, 25, or 30 °C, 182 183 we homogenised whole crickets in 900 µL of PBS to ensure that we captured all remaining 184 bacteria (including those associated with tissue). We diluted and spotted of the homogenate on 185 tryptic soy agar (TSA) containing 2  $\mu$ g/mL tetracycline and averaged the number of CFU over 186 four replicate spots, following 24 h at 37 °C. We homogenised a subset of crickets 1 min 187 following injection to obtain the true number of CFU injected and calculate percent clearance 188 (Haine et al. 2008). Control crickets injected with sterile PBS did not demonstrate any bacterial 189 growth on TSA containing tetracycline.

absorbance to concentration values using a standard curve created from bovine serum albumin.

191	Statistical analyses
192	All analyses were performed in R v3.1.2 (Team 2010) and preliminary data exploration was
193	conducted according to (Zuur et al. 2010). We compared $CT_{min}$ , $CT_{max}$ , CCR, and protein
194	concentration between CA and WA crickets using Welch's two-sample t-test. We compared the
195	performance curves of immune activity between WA and CA crickets using ANOVA (Angilletta
196	2006). Where necessary, response variables were square-root- (lysozyme, phenoloxidase),
197	arcsine- (bacterial clearance), or log-transformed (melanisation) to satisfy the assumptions of the
198	ANOVA. We assessed the assumptions of ANOVA by plotting residuals against fitted values to
199	confirm homogeneity of variance, and standardised residuals against theoretical quantiles to
200	assess normality (Crawley 2007). We used polynomial contrasts (Lenth 2013) to compare means
201	between warm and cold-acclimated crickets at each temperature.
202	
203	3. Results
204 205	Thermal limits of locomotor activity
206	Cold-acclimation enhanced low temperature locomotor activity of G. veletis and
207	shortened recovery time after cold exposure. The $CT_{min}$ of WA crickets was significantly higher
208	than that of CA crickets ( $t_{14.46}$ = 5.53, p < 0.001; Fig. 1A); however, there was no difference
209	between the $CT_{max}$ of WA and CA crickets (Fig. 1B; $t_5 = 0.11$ , $p = 0.45$ ). Chill coma recovery
210	time was lower in CA crickets than WA crickets (Fig. 1C; $t_{5.34} = 2.19$ , $p = 0.04$ ).
211	
212	Potential Immune Response
213	Potential humoral immunity was sensitive to temperature but remained unaffected by acclimation

214	(Table 1). Specifically, both lysozyme and phenoloxidase activities decreased with decreasing
215	temperature in both WA and CA crickets (Fig. 2); however, there was no overall difference in the
216	activity of either enzyme in WA compared to CA crickets (Table 1). Haemolymph protein
217	concentration of CA and WA crickets did not differ significantly ( $t_{22} = 0.59$ , $p = 0.28$ ).
218	
219	Realised Immune Response
220	Temperature also significantly affected realised immunity, including both bacterial
221	clearance and melanisation (Table 1). In addition, and in contrast to potential immunity,
222	acclimation had a significant effect on realised immunity (Table 1). Specifically, melanisation
223	and bacterial clearance were decreased in CA crickets at low temperatures, but largely
224	unchanged at warm temperatures (Fig. 3).
225	
225 226	Discussion
225 226 227	Discussion We explored the capacity for cold-acclimation of the immune system in <i>G. veletis</i> using
225 226 227 228	Discussion We explored the capacity for cold-acclimation of the immune system in <i>G. veletis</i> using an acclimation regime that improved locomotor activity at low temperatures [decreased CT <sub>min</sub>
225 226 227 228 229	Discussion We explored the capacity for cold-acclimation of the immune system in <i>G. veletis</i> using an acclimation regime that improved locomotor activity at low temperatures [decreased CT <sub>min</sub> and CCR, recognised proxies for cold tolerance in insects (Andersen et al. 2015)], but had no
225 226 227 228 229 230	Discussion We explored the capacity for cold-acclimation of the immune system in <i>G. veletis</i> using an acclimation regime that improved locomotor activity at low temperatures [decreased CT <sub>min</sub> and CCR, recognised proxies for cold tolerance in insects (Andersen et al. 2015)], but had no effect on heat tolerance (CT <sub>max</sub> ). Cold acclimation did not affect potential immunity nor realised
225 226 227 228 229 230 231	Discussion We explored the capacity for cold-acclimation of the immune system in <i>G. veletis</i> using an acclimation regime that improved locomotor activity at low temperatures [decreased CT <sub>min</sub> and CCR, recognised proxies for cold tolerance in insects (Andersen et al. 2015)], but had no effect on heat tolerance (CT <sub>max</sub> ). Cold acclimation did not affect potential immunity nor realised immunity at higher temperatures; however, realised immunity decreased in the cold in CA
225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232	Discussion We explored the capacity for cold-acclimation of the immune system in <i>G. veletis</i> using an acclimation regime that improved locomotor activity at low temperatures [decreased CT <sub>min</sub> and CCR, recognised proxies for cold tolerance in insects (Andersen et al. 2015)], but had no effect on heat tolerance (CT <sub>max</sub> ). Cold acclimation did not affect potential immunity nor realised immunity at higher temperatures; however, realised immunity decreased in the cold in CA crickets. We suggest that decreased activity in the cold may result from trade-off between some
225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233	Discussion We explored the capacity for cold-acclimation of the immune system in <i>G. veletis</i> using an acclimation regime that improved locomotor activity at low temperatures [decreased CT <sub>min</sub> and CCR, recognised proxies for cold tolerance in insects (Andersen et al. 2015)], but had no effect on heat tolerance (CT <sub>max</sub> ). Cold acclimation did not affect potential immunity nor realised immunity at higher temperatures; however, realised immunity decreased in the cold in CA crickets. We suggest that decreased activity in the cold may result from trade-off between some components of immune activity and other physiological responses initiated by cold acclimation.

a shift in the thermal performance curve (TPC) where  $T_{opt}$  decreases (i.e. beneficial acclimation;

response to acclimation, if increased low temperature performance were important in the cold: 1)

237 Fig. 4A); 2) a shift in the TPC where T<sub>opt</sub> is unchanged but maximal activity is higher across all 238 temperatures (i.e. colder is better; Fig. 4B); or 3) a reduction in thermal sensitivity, whereby the 239 TPC encompasses a larger range of activity, but maximal activity at the T<sub>opt</sub> is lower [i.e. 240 generalist vs. specialist; Fig. 4C (Angilletta 2009)]. However, we found that cold-acclimation 241 resulted in a paradoxical narrowing of the TPC of realised immune responses in crickets, 242 whereby activity was specialised to higher instead of lower temperatures, and the T<sub>opt</sub> and 243 maximal activity at the T<sub>opt</sub> were unaffected (Fig. 3, 4D). Decreased performance in the cold may 244 result from trade-offs between the increased energy demands of improving cold tolerance (e.g. 245 production of cryoprotectants) and the immune system (Sinclair, in press). For example, infection decreases CCR time in Drosophila melanogaster (Linderman et al. 2012), suggesting 246 247 that immune activity conflicts with cold tolerance. Thus, cold acclimation may preferentially 248 improve cold tolerance over whole-animal immune performance at low temperatures. 249 In addition to a decrease in realised immunity, cold acclimation produced mismatches 250 between potential and realised immunity. First, acclimation appeared only to decrease realised 251 immune responses in the cold, while potential immunity remained unchanged. Realised immune 252 responses, such as bacterial clearance, are generally mediated by the combined activity of 253 haemocytes, enzymes, and antimicrobial peptides (Gillespie and Kanost 1997), while the 254 potential immunity that we measured focused on the activity enzymes in isolation. Decreased 255 realised immune responses that are not paralleled in potential responses suggest that cold 256 acclimation has a stronger effect on cellular activity than it does on the activity of enzymes or 257 antimicrobial peptides, although we caution that we did not measure all components of the 258 immune system. Differences in potential and realised immune activity can create a disparate 259 estimate of overall immunocompetence (Fedorka et al. 2007), yet also hint at the relative

contributions of different immune components to protection against pathogens. In this case,
overall immunocompetence may decrease in the cold (realised immunity), yet a basal level of
protection may persist through the activity of enzymes and antimicrobial peptides (potential
immunity). We suggest that measuring multiple components of the immune system provides a
more comprehensive picture of the effects of thermal acclimation on immune performance, and
that both potential and realised responses should be considered when assessing the impact of the

Second, although PO activity and melanisation are linked as an immune response 267 268 (González-Santoyo and Córdoba-Aguilar 2012) their thermal optima were disparate; PO activity peaked at 25 °C, whereas melanisation peaked at 18 °C, in both CA and WA crickets [similar to 269 270 phagocytic capacity in mosquitoes (Murdock et al. 2012)]. The lower T<sub>opt</sub> of melanisation compared to that of PO activity appears to reflect a disconnect between the T<sub>opt</sub>, or thermal 271 272 sensitivity, of different components of the overall melanisation response. Temperature is likely to 273 drive the local adaptation of hosts and pathogens (Sternberg and Thomas 2014) and may have 274 driven the selection of G. veletis immune performance to a thermal optimum lower than enzyme 275 activity would predict. Thus, using thermal performance curves, we may gain insight into the 276 evolution of thermal sensitivity and plasticity of immune activity, and can begin to predict the 277 capacity for hosts to respond to pathogens under climate change scenarios.

Pathogen growth generally increases as temperatures increase (Harvell et al. 2002); thus, re-warming from cold exposure is likely to lead to an increase in pathogen pressure, and require an increase in immune activity. Despite decreased immune activity in the cold, realised immune activity in CA crickets was maintained at optimal temperatures, which suggests that immune activity may be required following, but not during, cold exposure. Seasonal immune activity in 283 other ectotherms, including fish [e.g. Sparus aurata (Tort et al. 1998)] and frogs [e.g. Rana 284 pipiens (Maniero and Carey 1997)], follows a pattern that reflects the effects of a short-term 285 acclimation on immune activity in crickets; specifically, immune activity decreases during the 286 winter but rapidly recovers, and even increases beyond control levels, upon re-warming. In 287 hibernators, such as the golden-mantled ground squirrel (Spermophilus lateralus), interbout 288 euthermia is accompanied by an increase in immune activity, thereby allowing the animal to 289 combat pathogens that have established in the cold (Prendergast et al. 2002). The thermal performance of immune activity in G. veletis following a short acclimation to low temperatures 290 291 may thus reflect a seasonal pattern of immune activity in insects that fluctuates with seasonal 292 shifts in pathogen pressure.

293 The contrast between decreased immune activity in the cold and maintained immune 294 activity at high temperatures suggests that fluctuating temperatures will affect the ability of cold-295 acclimated insects to fight cold-active pathogens and survive at low temperatures. Transient 296 increases in environmental temperature may facilitate a response to cold-active pathogens by 297 allowing for increased immune activity. For example, the expression of genes encoding immune 298 peptides in *M. rotundata* increases under warming provided by fluctuating thermal regimes 299 (Torson et al. 2015). Conversely, increased immune activity under periods of re-warming is 300 likely to decrease the energy available for responses to other stressors, such as cold. Further, 301 immune activity can trade-off with components of fitness, such as growth (Rantala and Roff 302 2005) and reproduction (Adamo et al. 2001; Ahmed et al. 2002); thus fluctuations in temperature 303 may create conflict between the response to pathogens and fitness- or stress-related physiological 304 processes. If climate change-related warming leads to an increase in both pathogen pressure and 305 immune activity, both transient and seasonal periods of re-warming will affect the interactions

between energy expenditure and pathogen response, thereby contributing to the impacts of cold and winter on insects. We do caution, however, that the acclimation used in our study does not reflect the type of long-term, seasonal acclimation that an insect would experience in preparation for overwintering (Tauber et al. 1986), and thus we are limited in using our results to predict the outcome of insect-pathogen responses in the wild.

311 As global temperatures shift with climate change, it is increasingly important to understand the physiological capacity of organisms to respond to changes in their environment 312 313 (Araújo and Luoto 2007; Chown et al. 2010). Ecological physiology often quantifies this 314 capacity of ectotherms to respond to environmental change by measuring the thermal sensitivity 315 and plasticity of one trait or system; for example, thermal limits to activity (Terblanche et al. 316 2008) or reproduction (Cudmore et al. 2010). However, multiple abiotic and biotic pressures co-317 occur, and we must instead consider what phenotypes are produced by the simultaneous activity 318 of multiple physiological systems in response to these pressures. Increased cold-tolerance, 319 coupled with decreased immune activity at low temperatures in cold-acclimated G. veletis, 320 demonstrates that thermal plasticity was disconnected among and within physiological systems; 321 this suggests that plasticity in one trait does not necessarily reflect the response of the whole 322 organism to connected shifts in its abiotic and biotic environment. Thus, to predict the phenotype 323 of an organism that will succeed under climate change scenarios, we must begin to measure 324 multiple physiological traits that correspond to multiple, integrated pressures in a changing 325 environment.

326

327 Conclusions

328 We show that cold acclimation improves cold tolerance in G. veletis, does not affect the 329 activity of immune enzymes in vitro (potential immunity), and decreases realised immune 330 activity at low temperatures. Thus, measures of whole-animal immune performance appear to 331 trade-off with cold tolerance, and we suggest that pathogen stress may be more prevalent upon 332 re-warming. Climate change will result in alterations to the interactions among multiple 333 stressors, such as between temperature and pathogens (Todgham and Stillman 2013), and the 334 thermal performance of the responses to these stressors will contribute to success under new 335 environmental conditions. However, we show that thermal performance does not consistently 336 respond to acclimation among - or even within - physiological systems. Therefore we caution against predicting responses to climate change based on thermal performance of a single 337 338 physiological system.

339

### 340 Acknowledgements

Thanks to Dr. Chris Guglielmo, for equipment access, Benjamin Arsic and Ron Flannagan for
microbiological assistance, and Amanda Hu, Steven Villani, Steven Xia, and Joshua Zyss for
cricket rearing. We are grateful to Caroline Williams and anonymous reviewers for comments
that improved the manuscript. Supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research
Council of Canada via a Discovery Grant to BJS and a PGS-D scholarship to LVF; by a grant
from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation to BJS; and by a grant from The Canadian
Institutes of Health Research to DEH.

349

## 352 References

- Adamo SA (2004) Estimating disease resistance in insects: phenoloxidase and lysozyme-like
   activity and disease resistance in the cricket Gryllus texensis. J Insect Physiol 50:209 216. doi: 10.1016/j.jinsphys.2003.11.011
- Adamo SA, Jensen M, Younger M (2001) Changes in lifetime immunocompetence in male and
   female Gryllus texensis (formerly G. integer): trade-offs between immunity and
   reproduction. Animal Behav 62:417-425. doi: 10.1006/anbe.2001.1786
- Ahmed AM, Baggott SL, Maingon R, Hurd H (2002) The costs of mounting an immune response
   are reflected in the reproductive fitness of the mosquito *Anopheles gambiae*. Oikos
   97:371-377
- Alexander RD (1968) Life cycle origins, speciation, and related phenomena in crickets. Q Rev
   Biol 43:1-41
- Andersen JL et al. (2015) How to assess *Drosophila* cold tolerance: chill coma temperature and
   lower lethal temperature are the best predictors of cold distribution limits. Func Ecol
   29:55-65. doi: 10.1111/1365-2435.12310
- Angilletta MJ (2006) Estimating and comparing thermal performance curves. J Therm Biol
   31:541-545. doi: 10.1016/j.jtherbio.2006.06.002
- Angilletta MJ, Jr. (2009) Thermal Adaptation: A Theoretical and Empirical Synthesis. Oxford
   University Press, New York, United States of America
- Araújo MB, Luoto M (2007) The importance of biotic interactions for modelling species
   distributions under climate change. Global Ecol Biogeograph 16:743-753. doi:
   10.1111/j.1466-8238.2007.00359.x
- Ardia DR, Gantz JE, BC, Schneider, Strebel S (2012) Costs of immunity in insects: an induced immune response increases metabolic rate and decreases antimicrobial activity. Func Ecol 26:732-739. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2435.2012.01989.x
- Bresolin G, Morgan JA, Ilgen D, Scherer S, Fuchs TM (2006) Low temperature-induced
   insecticidal activity of *Yersinia enterocolitica*. Molec Microbiol 59:503-512. doi:
   10.1111/j.1365-2958.2005.04916.x
- Chown SL, Hoffmann AA, Kristensen TN, Angilletta MJ, Stenseth NC, Pertoldi C (2010)
   Adapting to climate change: a perspective from evolutionary physiology. Climate Res
   43:3-15. doi: 10.3354/cr00879
- Coello Alvarado LE, MacMillan HA, Sinclair BJ (2015) Chill-tolerant *Gryllus* crickets maintain ion
   balance at low temperatures. J Insect Physiol 77:15-25. doi:
   10.1016/i.jinsphys.2015.03.015
- Collazos ME, Ortega E, Barriga C (1994) Effect of temperature on the immune system of a
   cyprinid fish (*Tinca tinca*, L). Blood phagocyte function at low temperatures. Fish
   Shellfish Immunol 4:231-238
- Crawley MJ (2007) The R Book. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, New York
- Cudmore TJ, Björklund N, Carroll AL, Staffan Lindgren B (2010) Climate change and range
   expansion of an aggressive bark beetle: evidence of higher beetle reproduction in naïve
   host tree populations. J Appl Ecol 47:1036-1043. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2664.2010.01848.x
- Fedorka KM, Copeland EK, Winterhalter WE (2013) Seasonality influences cuticle melanization
   and immune defense in a cricket: support for a temperature-dependent immune
   investment hypothesis in insects. J Exp Biol 216:4005-4010. doi: 10.1242/jeb.091538
   Federka KM, Linder JE, Winterhalter W, Draminlaw D (2007) Poet meting disperity between
- Fedorka KM, Linder JE, Winterhalter W, Promislow D (2007) Post-mating disparity between
   potential and realized immune response in *Drosophila melanogaster*. Proc R Soc B
   274:1211-1217. doi: 10.1098/rspb.2006.0394
- Fernandes EK, Rangel DE, Moraes AM, Bittencourt VR, Roberts DW (2008) Cold activity of
   *Beauveria* and *Metarhizium*, and thermotolerance of *Beauveria*. J Invert Pathol 98:69-78.

401	doi: 10.1016/j.jip.2007.10.011
402	Freitak D, Ots I, Vanatoa A, Horak P (2003) Immune response is energetically costly in white
403	cabbage butterfly pupae. Proc R Soc B 270:S220-222. doi: 10.1098/rsbl.2003.0069
404	Gershman SN (2008) Sex-specific differences in immunological costs of multiple mating in
405	Grvllus vocalis field crickets, Behav Ecol 19:810-815, doi: 10.1093/beheco/arn040
406	Gillespie JP. Kanost MR (1997) Biological mediators of insect immunity. Ann Rev Entomol
407	42:611-643
408	González-Santovo I. Córdoba-Aquilar A (2012) Phenoloxidase: a key component of the insect
409	immune system. Entomol Exp Appl 142:1-16. doi: 10.1111/i.1570-7458.2011.01187.x
410	Haine ER, Moret Y, Siva-Jothy MT, Rolff J (2008) Antimicrobial defense and persistent infection
411	in insects. Science 322:1257-1259. doi: 10.1126/science.1165265
412	Harrison JF. Woods HA. Roberts SP (2012) Ecological and Environmental Physiology of
413	Insects. Oxford University Press. Oxford. New York
414	Harvell DH et al. (2002) Climate warming and disease risks for terrestrial and marine biota.
415	Science 296:2158-2162
416	Hokkanen HMT (1992) Overwintering survival and spring emergence in <i>Meligethes aeneus</i> :
417	effects of body weight crowding and soil treatment with <i>Beauveria bassiana</i> . Entomol
418	Exp Appl 67:241-246
419	Irwin JT Lee RF Jr (2003) Cold winter microenvironments conserve energy and improve
420	overwintering survival and potential fecundity of the goldenrod gall fly. Eurosta
421	solidaginis. Oikos 100:71-78
422	Krams I. Daukšte J. Kivleniece I. Krama T. Rantala MJ (2011) Overwinter survival depends on
423	immune defence and body length in male Aquarius naias water striders. Entomol Exp
424	Appl 140:45-51. doi: 10.1111/i.1570-7458.2011.01132.x
425	Le Bourg E. Massou I. Gobert V (2009) Cold stress increases resistance to fungal infection
426	throughout life in <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> . Biogerontol 10:613-625. doi:
427	10.1007/s10522-008-9206-y
428	Le Morvan C, Troutaud D, Deschaux P (1998) Differential effects of temperature on specific and
429	nonspecific immune defences in fish. J Exp Biol 201:165-168
430	Lenth RV (2013) Ismeans: Least-Squares means, R package version 1.06-05 edn
431	Linderman JA, Chambers MC, Gupta AS, Schneider DS (2012) Infection-related declines in chill
432	coma recovery and negative geotaxis in <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> . PloS one 7:e41907.
433	doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0041907
434	Lutterschmidt WI, Hutchison VH (1997) The critical thermal maximum: data to support the onset
435	of spasms as the definitive end point. Can J Zool 75:1530-1556
436	MacMillan HA, Sinclair BJ (2011) The role of the gut in insect chilling injury: cold-induced
437	disruption of osmoregulation in the fall field cricket, Gryllus pennsylvanicus. J Exp Biol
438	214:726-734. doi: 10.1242/jeb.051540
439	MacMillan HA, Williams CM, Staples JF, Sinclair BJ (2012) Reestablishment of ion homeostasis
440	during chill-coma recovery in the cricket Gryllus pennsylvanicus. PNAS 109:20750-
441	20755
442	Maniero GD, Carey C (1997) Changes in selected aspects of immune function in the leopard
443	frog, Rana pipiens, associated with exposure to cold. J Comp Physiol B167:256-263
444	Marnila P, Tiiska A, Lagerspetz K, Lilius E-M (1995) Phagocyte activity in the frog Rana
445	temporaria: whole blood chemiluminescence method and the effects of temperature and
446	thermal acclimation. Comp Biochem Physiol 111A:609-614
447	Marshall KE, Sinclair BJ (2011) The sub-lethal effects of repeated freezing in the woolly bear
448	caterpillar Pyrrharctia isabella. J Exp Biol 214:1205-1212. doi: 10.1242/jeb.054569
449	Murdock CC, Paaijmans KP, Bell AS, King JG, Hillyer JF, Read AF, Thomas MB (2012) Complex
450	effects of temperature on mosquito immune function. Proc R Soc B 279:3357-3366. doi:
451	10.1098/rspb.2012.0638

- 452 Nakamura A et al. (2011) Innate immune system still works at diapause, a physiological state of
   453 dormancy in insects. Biochem Biophys Res Comm 410:351-357. doi:
   454 dormancy in insects. 2044 00 045
- 454 10.1016/j.bbrc.2011.06.015
- 455 Olsen TM, Duman JG (1997) Maintenance of the superooled state in overwintering pyrochroid
   456 beetle larvae, *Dendroides canadensis*: role of hemolymph ice nucleators and antifreeze
   457 proteins. J Comp Physiol B 167:105-113
- Olsen TM, Sass SJ, Li N, Duman JG (1998) Factors contributing to seasonal increases in
   inoculative freezing resistance in overwintering fire-colored beetle larvae *Dendroides canadensis* (Pyrochroidae). J Exp Biol 201:1585-1594
- Prendergast BJ, Freeman DA, Zucker I, Nelson RJ (2002) Periodic arousal from hibernation is
   necessary for initiation of immune responses in ground squirrels. Am J Physiol
   282:R1054–R1062
- 464 Rantala MJ, Roff DA (2005) An analysis of trade-offs in immune function, body size and
   465 development time in the Mediterranean Field Cricket, *Gryllus bimaculatus*. Func Ecol
   466 19:323-330. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2435.2005.00979.x
- 467 Rasband WS (1997-2014) Image J, 1.45S edn. National Institutes of Health, Bethesda,
   468 Maryland, USA
- 469 Riedel W, Steenberg T (1998) Adult polyphagous coleopterans overwintering in cereal
   470 boundaries: winter mortality and susceptibility to the entomopathogenic fungus
   471 *Beauveria bassiana*. BioControl 43:175-188
- Schmid-Hempel P (2003) Variation in immune defence as a question of evolutionary ecology.
   Proc R Soc B 270:357-366. doi: 10.1098/rspb.2002.2265
- 474 Sinclair BJ (in press) Linking energetics and overwintering in temperate insects. J Therm Biol
   475 doi: 10.1016/j.jtherbio.2014.07.007
- Sinclair BJ, Ferguson LV, Salehipour-shirazi G, MacMillan HA (2013) Cross-tolerance and
   cross-talk in the cold: relating low temperatures to desiccation and immune stress in
   insects. Int Comp Biol 53:545-556. doi: 10.1093/icb/ict004
- 479 Somero GN (1995) Proteins and temperature. Ann Rev Physiol 57:43-68
- 480 Steenberg T, Langer V, Esbjerg P (1995) Entomopathogenic fungi in predatory beetles (col.:
   481 *Carabidae* and *Staphylinidae*) from agricultural fields. Entomophaga 40:77-85
- 482 Sternberg ED, Thomas MB (2014) Local adaptation to temperature and the implications for 483 vector-borne diseases. Trends Parasitol 30:115-122. doi: 10.1016/j.pt.2013.12.010
- Tauber MJ, Tauber CA, Masaki S (1986) Seasonal Adaptations of Insects. Oxford University
   Press, New York
- 486 Team RDC (2010) R: A language and environment for statistical computing. R Foundation for
   487 Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria
- Terblanche JS, Clusella-Trullas S, Deere JA, Chown SL (2008) Thermal tolerance in a south east African population of the tsetse fly *Glossina pallidipes* (Diptera, Glossinidae):
   implications for forecasting climate change impacts. J Insect Physiol 54:114-127. doi:
- 491 10.1016/j.jinsphys.2007.08.007
- Terblanche JS, Sinclair BJ, Jaco Klok C, McFarlane ML, Chown SL (2005) The effects of
   acclimation on thermal tolerance, desiccation resistance and metabolic rate in *Chirodica chalcoptera* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae). J Insect Physiol 51:1013-1023. doi:
   10.1016/j.jinsphys.2005.04.016
- Todgham AE, Stillman JH (2013) Physiological responses to shifts in multiple environmental
   stressors: relevance in a changing world. Int Comp Biol 53:539-544. doi:
   10.1093/icb/ict086
- Torson AS, Yocum GD, Rinehart JP, Kemp WP, Bowsher JH (2015) Transcriptional responses to
   fluctuating thermal regimes underpinning differences in survival in the solitary bee
   *Megachile rotundata*.J Exp Biol. doi: 10.1242/jeb.113829
- 502 Tort L, Padros F, Rotillant J, Crespo S (1998) Winter syndrome in the gilthead sea bream

- Sparus aurata. Fish Shellfish Immunol 8:37-47
   Vilcinskas A, Matha V (1997) Effect of the entomopathogenic fungus *Beauveria bassiana* on the humoral immune response of *Galleria mellonella* larvae (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae). Eur J Entomol 94:461-472
   Webberlau KM, Luret CDD (2002) The effect of energy patient size on en incent exemption
- Webberley KM, Hurst GDD (2002) The effect of aggregative overwintering on an insect sexually
   transmitted parasite system. J Parasitol 88:707-712
- Williams CM, Henry HA, Sinclair BJ (2015) Cold truths: how winter drives responses of
   terrestrial organisms to climate change. Biol Rev Camb Philos Soc. doi:
   10.1111/brv.12105
- 512 Williams CM, Marshall KE, MacMillan HA, Dzurisin JD, Hellmann JJ, Sinclair BJ (2012) Thermal 513 variability increases the impact of autumnal warming and drives metabolic depression in 514 an overwintering butterfly. PloS one 7:e34470. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0034470
- 515 Xu J, James RR (2012) Temperature stress affects the expression of immune response genes 516 in the alfalfa leafcutting bee, *Megachile rotundata*. Insect Molec Biol 21:269-280. doi: 517 10.1111/i.1365-2583.2012.01133.x
- Zhang J, Marshall KE, Westwood JT, Clark MS, Sinclair BJ (2011) Divergent transcriptomic
   responses to repeated and single cold exposures in *Drosophila melanogaster*. J Exp Biol
   214:4021-4029. doi: 10.1242/jeb.059535
- 521 Zuur AF, Ieno EN, Elphick CS (2010) A protocol for data exploration to avoid common statistical 522 problems. Methods Ecol Evol 1:3-14. doi: 10.1111/j.2041-210X.2009.00001.x

524

## 526 Figures and Tables

527 Fig. 1 Locomotor activity related to cold tolerance in warm- and cold-acclimated *Gryllus veletis*.

528 (A) The critical thermal minima, or the temperatures at which crickets entered chill coma (n = 9

529 WA, 8 CA). (B) The critical thermal maxima, or temperatures indicating the onset of heat spasms

530 (n = 6 WA, 5 CA). (C) Time taken to recover from 72 h in chill coma at -2 °C (n = 5 per

531 acclimation)

532

533 Fig. 2 Potential immune activity in warm- and cold-acclimated *Gryllus veletis*. (A) Lysozyme

activity *in vitro*, measured as the zone of inhibition of *Micrococcus luteus* from 24 h - 48 h (n =

535 6-8 per acclimation, per temperature) (B) Total phenoloxidase activity measured *in vitro* as an

536 increase in absorbance at 495 nm (n = 4-5 per acclimation, per temperature). Points represent

537 mean  $\pm$  SEM

538

**Fig. 3** Realised immune activity in warm- and cold-acclimated *Gryllus veletis*. (A) Melanisation, represented as a reverse grey value, of an implanted nylon filament (n = 4-5 per acclimation, per temperature) (B) The proportion of *Staphylococcus aureus* cleared from the haemolymph *in vivo*, 24 h following inoculation (n = 4-8 per acclimation, per temperature). Points represent mean  $\pm$ SEM. Asterisks indicate significant differences between warm- and cold-acclimated crickets, p < 0.05

545

Fig. 4 Thermal performance curves of the potential outcomes of cold-acclimation on immune
activity. A) The Beneficial Acclimation Hypothesis B) The Colder is Better Hypothesis C) The

548 Generalist-Specialist hypothesis D) Paradoxical narrowing of the TPC, representing

549 specialisation of activity to temperatures not predicted by acclimation temperature







Figure 2.







Temperature



