

# Nonspecific stress response to temperature increase in *Gammarus lacustris* Sars with respect to oxygen-limited thermal tolerance concept

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The previously undescribed dynamics of the heat shock protein HSP70 and subsequent lipid peroxidation products have been assessed alongside lactate dehydrogenase activity for *Gammarus lacustris* Sars, an amphipod species from the saltwater lake Shira (Republic of Khakassia). Individuals were exposed to a gradual temperature increase of 1°C/hour (total exposure duration of 26 hours) starting from the mean annual temperature of their habitat (7°C) up to 33 °C. A complex of biochemical reactions occurred when saltwater *G. lacustris* was exposed to the gradual changes in temperature. This was characterized by a decrease in lactate dehydrogenase activity and the launching of lipid peroxidation. The HSP70 level did not change significantly during the entire experiment. In agreement with the concept of oxygen-limited thermal tolerance, an accumulation of the most toxic lipid peroxides (triene conjugates and Schiff bases) in phospholipids occurred at the same time and temperature as the accumulation of lactate. The main criterion overriding the temperature threshold was therefore the transition to anaerobiosis, confirmed by the elevated lactate levels observed, and by the development of cellular stress, which was expressed by an accumulation of lipid peroxidation products. An earlier hypothesis, based on freshwater individuals of the same species, has been confirmed whereby the increased thermotolerance of *G. lacustris* from the saltwater lake was caused by differences in energy metabolism and energy supply of nonspecific cellular stress-response mechanisms. With the development of global climate warming, these reactions could be advantageous for saltwater *G. lacustris*. The studied biochemical reactions can be used as biomarkers for the stress status of aquatic organisms when their habitat temperature changes.

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**Abstract**

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23           The previously undescribed dynamics of the heat shock protein HSP70 and subsequent  
24 lipid peroxidation products have been assessed alongside lactate dehydrogenase activity for  
25 *Gammarus lacustris* Sars, an amphipod species from the saltwater lake Shira (Republic of  
26 Khakassia). Individuals were exposed to a gradual temperature increase of 1 °C/hour (total  
27 exposure duration of 26 hours) starting from the mean annual temperature of their habitat (7 °C)  
28 up to 33 °C. A complex of biochemical reactions occurred when saltwater *G. lacustris* was  
29 exposed to the gradual changes in temperature. This was characterized by a decrease in lactate  
30 dehydrogenase activity and the launching of lipid peroxidation. The HSP70 level did not change  
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32 thermal tolerance, an accumulation of the most toxic lipid peroxides (triene conjugates and  
33 Schiff bases) in phospholipids occurred at the same time and temperature as the accumulation of  
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42 biomarkers for the stress status of aquatic organisms when their habitat temperature changes.

## 43 Introduction

44 Temperature is one of the factors that determines functioning and stability of ecosystems.  
45 Temperature defines a number of processes in living organisms at all levels of organization  
46 (Iacarella, 2015; Huey, 2018). In recent years, surface temperature of lakes throughout the world  
47 has grown significantly (about 0.34 °C within 10 years) (O'Reilly et al., 2015; Yasuhara,  
48 Danovaro, 2016). Such rapid warming is a drastic signal for the need to study comprehensively  
49 the impact of climate change on the status of water ecosystems to assess the fauna vulnerability  
50 and adaptive capacity. In addition, this induces the need to develop new methods and tools for  
51 environmental protection. Studying thermal tolerance mechanisms and energy metabolism  
52 components in aquatic organisms in changing ambient temperature is of essential interest and  
53 relevance.

54 Recently to explain the ecological consequences of climate change, the concept of  
55 oxygen-and capacity-limited thermal tolerance (OCLTT) have been used (Pörtner, 2010). The  
56 key idea of this concept is that there is a limited thermal range of aerobic performance of the  
57 species, or a life stage, beyond which the aerobic metabolism is no longer possible.  
58 Biochemically these ranges can be detected by the accumulation of end products of anaerobiosis,  
59 which is followed by the development of cellular stress and activation of nonspecific cellular  
60 stress-response (NCSR) (Kassahn et al., 2009).

61 Among the NCSR components, high attention was given to the antioxidant enzymes  
62 (Almedia et al., 2002), heat shock proteins, such as HSP70 (Triebkorn et al., 2002), lipid and  
63 fatty acid composition (Bergé, Barnathan, 2005), lipid peroxidation products (Valavanidis et al.,  
64 2006), enzymes and products involved in energy metabolism including anaerobiosis (Almeida et  
65 al., 2002), gene expression (Lee et al., 2008), etc.

66 However, it is unknown whether different populations of the same species vary in  
67 activation of NCSR on the edge of their oxygen performance range. In our previous studies we  
68 investigated inter-populational differences of energy metabolism during gradual warming in two  
69 distant populations of the common Holarctic amphipod *Gammarus lacustris* Sars, 1863  
70 (Vereshchagina et al., 2016) from freshwater and saline lake, and NCSR capacity of this species  
71 from the freshwater lake (Axenov-Gribanov et al., 2016).

72 The aim of the present study was to investigate the dynamics of HSP70 and lipid  
73 peroxidation products along with activity of lactate dehydrogenase, as biomarker of anaerobiosis,

74 in gradual temperature increase in *Gammarus lacustris* from the saline lake Shira (Republic of  
75 Khakassia, Russia).

76 Heat shock proteins of the HSP70 family protect and restore the structure of cellular  
77 proteins under different stresses (Mayer, Goloubinoff, 2017). The content of HSP70 has been  
78 shown to increase under stress conditions in many organisms, since the amount of damaged  
79 proteins rise (Axenov-Gribanov, 2016; Garbuz, Evgen'ev, 2017). Lactate dehydrogenase  
80 catalyzes the reaction of the interconversion of lactate and pyruvate and associated with the  
81 processes of carbohydrate and energy metabolism. The enzyme plays an important role in  
82 adaptive reactions of the whole organism (Holbrook et al., 1975). Lactate dehydrogenase activity  
83 depends on such parameters as intensity of swimming and the availability of their food  
84 (Dahlhoff, 2004). There is a wide range of studies in which this parameter was used as an  
85 indicator of changes in energy metabolism under stress (Brown-Peterson et al., 2005). Another  
86 indicator studied in our work is the level of lipid peroxidation, determined by the dynamics of  
87 the content of its products. Peroxide oxidation processes occur in cell lipids (mostly in  
88 membrane phospholipids) as a result of the action of reactive oxygen species (ROS) (Guéraud et  
89 al., 2010). The processes of peroxidation are series of a chain reactions resulting in a number of  
90 products are consistently formed, most of which are toxic (Valavanidis et al., 2006).

91 *G. lacustris* is a suitable model to experimentally investigate the impact of different  
92 abiotic and biotic stress factors. It has a wide distribution across Northern Hemisphere (Wilhelm,  
93 Schindler, 2001). *G. lacustris* inhabits lentic and lotic ecosystems and has a wide ecological  
94 valence (Väinölä, 2007; Takhteev, 2015). Food spectrum of *G. lacustris* is broad. Being an  
95 opportunistic species, in standard conditions it prefers detritus and plant material (Gladyshev et  
96 al., 2000). From the previous study, preferable temperature for this species is 15-16 °C and it is  
97 highly tolerant to a wide range of environment pH variations (6.2-9.2) (Timofeyev, 2010). Also,  
98 *G. lacustris* is highly tolerant to hypoxia, especially in low water temperature. Thereby, this  
99 species is a regular inhabitant of eutrophic water bodies. In addition, this species is an  
100 indispensable component of many ecosystems. Thereby, *G. lacustris* is a top predator in food  
101 chain in lake Shira. Noteworthy, the juvenile representatives predominantly inhabit a depth 1.5-2  
102 m, whereas adult individuals stay apart and live at a depth 5–12 m (Yemelyanova et al., 2002).  
103 Due to the fact, that this species is found in most water bodies of the Holarctic, it can be used as

104 an object of bioindication in assessing the impact of climate change on water bodies and their  
105 ecosystems.

106

107 **Materials and methods**

108 **Sampling site**

109 *G. lacustris* were caught in July 2013 with a plankton net at depth of 7 m from the  
110 southern shore of lake Shira. The temperature recorded at the time of sampling was 15 °C. The  
111 lake is located in Southern Siberia (54°29'7.25" N, 90°12'1.49" E), in the steppe zone of the  
112 northern part of the Minusinsk valley (Republic of Khakassia, Russia). Lake Shira is a brackish  
113 meromictic water body with a shape of 9.35 × 5.3 km and water surface area of 35.9 km<sup>2</sup>. The  
114 maximum depth of the lake reaches 24 m, and the average depth is about 11.2 m (Degermendzhy  
115 et al., 2010; Rogozin et al., 2017). The sampling site represents diverse soils that contain gravel,  
116 sand, stone, clay and mud; the sublittoral comprises sand with small stones and gray mud; the  
117 black mud prevails in pelagic zone (Yemelyanova et al., 2002).

118 Lake Shira is one of the most saline water bodies (15–17 ‰) inhabited by *G. lacustris*. Its  
119 chemical composition corresponds to the following anion-cation ratio (mg/L): Cl<sup>-</sup> - 2100, Na<sup>+</sup> -  
120 2880, K<sup>+</sup> - 37, Mg<sup>2+</sup> - 1080, CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> - 174, Ca<sup>2+</sup> - 51, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> - 8010, HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> - 998, and environmental  
121 pH is close to 8.7 (Kalacheva et al., 2002). In summer, water temperature in the lake littoral zone  
122 can reach 28 °C, while the mean annual temperature of water is about 7 °C (Rogozin et al.,  
123 2017).

124 **Experimental design and animal maintenance**

125 In this study, experiments were carried out during July 2013 at field station of the  
126 Institute of Biophysics SB RAS which is located directly at lake Shira. Animals were selected  
127 with approximately the same size of 8-10 mm. According to the study (Zadereev, Gubanov,  
128 2002) this body length can be used to classify adult animals. Immediately after sampling,  
129 amphipods were transferred to the laboratory. One hundred individual amphipods were placed  
130 into 2 L glass tanks containing aerated 7 °C (i.e. the average temperature of the lake) filtered  
131 water from their native habitat. Prior to experimental exposure, amphipods were pre-acclimated  
132 for 7 days. Tanks with amphipods were kept in a refrigerated showcase (Biryusa, Krasnoyarsk,  
133 Russia) to maintain constant temperature during pre-acclimation. Water was exchanged once  
134 every 2 days. The experimental animals were fed daily with potatoes *ad libitum*. Excess food  
135 was removed. During acclimation, the amphipods showed high motor activity and no deaths,  
136 which can indicate that the acclimation conditions were not stressing for this species.

137 Gradual temperature increase experiments were carried out at the rate of 1 °C per hour by  
138 use of a refrigerated bath circulator (CRYO-VT-11, Tomsk, Russia) continuing until 100%  
139 mortality occurred (modified from Sokolova and Pörtner (2003)). After every 2 °C of  
140 temperature increase (i.e., every 2 hours) four specimens were randomly collected from each  
141 tank, thus, eight replicates were taken at each temperature treatment and shock-frozen in liquid  
142 nitrogen. Fixations were conducted upon reaching definite temperatures – 9 °C (2 h of exposure),  
143 11 °C (4 h), 13 °C (6 h), 15 °C (8 h), 17 °C (10 h), 19 °C (12 h), 21 °C (14 h), 23 °C (16 h), 25 °C  
144 (18 h), 27 °C (20 h), 29 °C (22 h), 31 °C (24 h) and 33 °C (26 h).

#### 145 **Biochemical methods**

##### 146 **Assessment of heat shock proteins 70 content**

147 Total protein was isolated in 0.1 M Tris HCl (pH 7.6). The amount of protein in samples  
148 was determined using the M. Bradford method (Bradford, 1976) at 595 nm wavelength. HSP70  
149 dynamics was determined using standard sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel  
150 electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) in 12.5% polyacrylamide gel, followed by Western blotting  
151 (Laemmli, 1970). For HSP70 visualization, at first, the obtained membranes were incubated with  
152 antibodies to HSP70 (monoclonal Anti-Heat Shock Protein 70 antibody produced in mouse;  
153 Sigma-Aldrich, # H5147, 1:1000 dilution). Then, after washing off the unbound antibody, the  
154 membranes were incubated in the solution of secondary antibodies conjugated with alkaline  
155 phosphatase (Anti-Mouse IgG (whole molecule) – Alkaline Phosphatase antibody produced in  
156 goat, Sigma-Aldrich # A3562, 1:1000 dilution). We used actin as the reference protein. For actin  
157 visualization, the following antibodies were used: polyclonal anti- $\alpha$ -actin antibodies produced in  
158 rabbit (Sigma-Aldrich #A2668, 1:1000 dilution) and secondary anti-rabbit antibodies (Sigma-  
159 Aldrich #A9919, 1:1000 dilution). Semiquantitative analysis of the studied protein content on  
160 membranes was carried out using the ImageJ Package (v.1.41., Wayne Rasband, NIH, USA).  
161 Protein relative count is given in arbitrary units (arb. un.) calculated from the optic density of the  
162 HSP70 band divided by the optic density of the actin band.

##### 163 **Measurement of lactate dehydrogenase activity**

164 Activity of lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) was measured using the enzymatic  
165 spectrophotometric method. This method is based on the reaction of pyruvate converting into  
166 lactate. NADH to NAD<sup>+</sup> oxidation rate is proportional to the LDH activity. Measurements were  
167 taken in buffered sodium phosphate solution (0.1 M, pH=7.5) using the LDH-Vital express kit (B

168 23.01, Vital–Development Corporation, Spb) at 340 nm wavelength according to the  
169 manufacturer’s instructions. Optic density was measured using the Carry 50 Conc UV/VIS  
170 analytical station (Varian, USA).

### 171 **Measurement of lipid peroxidation product level**

172 The levels of lipid peroxidation products were estimated from monochromatic light flux  
173 absorbed by lipid extract in UV spectrum according to the Deryugina et al. modified technique  
174 (Deryugina et al., 2010). Frozen specimens were ground in 1:1 heptane–isopropanol extraction  
175 mixture. Using the extraction mixture, homogenate volume was brought up to 4.5 ml. To  
176 separate lipid peroxidase fractions, 1 ml of distilled water was added to samples, which were  
177 intensively stirred 10 seconds by hand until fraction became homogeneous then incubated at  
178 25 °C for 30 min. After the phase separation, the isopropanol (lower) and heptane (upper)  
179 fractions were centrifuged for 2 min at 14 krpm. 97% ethanol (ratio 1:3) we added to the  
180 obtained supernatant, and then the optic density of the solution was measured using the Carry 50  
181 Conc UV/VIS spectrophotometer (USA). Diene and triene conjugates, and Schiff bases were  
182 measured at wave lengths of 232, 278 and 400 nm, respectively. Content of lipid peroxidation  
183 products was estimated in arbitrary units (arb. un.) in terms of isolated double bonds as measured  
184 at 220 nm wavelength.

### 185 **Statistical analysis**

186 All the experiments were carried out with 3–8 biological replicates, and biochemical  
187 measurements for each sample were performed in triplicate (technical replicates). Immunoblots  
188 were analyzed using the ImageJ package (v.1.41., Wayne Rasband, NIH, USA). Normality was  
189 checked with the Kolmogorov-Simonov test. Data analysis was performed using the one-way  
190 ANOVA test, and the Student-Newman-Keuls test was used as a post hoc-test. When the data  
191 distribution deviated from the normal, Kruskal-Wallis with Dunn test as a post hoc-test was used.  
192 With p-value <0.05, the differences were considered to be significant (to check statistical  
193 hypotheses with multiple testing, we also used the Bonferroni correction). Statistical data  
194 processing was performed with SigmaPlot package (version 12, Systat Software Inc.,  
195 USA/Canada).

196 **Results**

197 In this study, we show that the HSP70 level did not change significantly during the entire  
198 exposure to gradual temperature increase from 7 °C to 33 °C (Fig. 1).

199 It is shown that the gradual temperature increase leads to lactate dehydrogenase activity  
200 decrease, an important component of anaerobic metabolism (Fig. 2). During the exposure,  
201 *G. lacustris* demonstrated a reliable 16-fold decrease of the enzyme activity from 151.57±3.80  
202 nKat/mg of protein to 9.19±3.83 nKat/mg of protein on reaching 11 °C. Within the range from  
203 11 °C to 21 °C, the enzyme activity remained low. After that, we observed a short-term  
204 reactivation up to 56.37±21.68 nKat/mg of protein and 75.97±27.69 nKat/mg protein in exposure  
205 temperatures of 25 °C and 27 °C, respectively. However, at the exposure temperatures over  
206 27 °C, the enzyme activity was again lower than the control levels.

207 To assess the dynamic of oxidation processes under the temperature increase, we  
208 measured the content of lipid peroxidation products such as diene conjugates, triene conjugates  
209 and Schiff bases. These metabolites reflect various oxidation stages in an organism. Our data  
210 shows that in *G. lacustris* decreased the level of diene conjugates in the neutral lipid fraction  
211 (Fig. 3) when temperature reached 21 °C (0.24±0.05) and 27 °C (0.24±0.04). Changes of diene  
212 conjugates content in phospholipid fraction were not observed until the end of the experiment.

213 It is shown that the gradual temperature increase led to elevated triene conjugates in *G.*  
214 *lacustris* relative to the control level in composition of both phospholipids and neutral lipids  
215 (Fig. 4). Elevated levels of triene conjugates were observed in neutral lipids composition, on  
216 reaching 31 °C (two-fold as compared to the basal level, 0.25±0.03). With phospholipids, the  
217 elevation occurred on reaching 31 and 33 °C (0.24±0.03 and 0.24±0.02, respectively).

218 In analysis of the gradual temperature increase effect on lipid peroxidation end products  
219 (Fig. 5) in saltwater *G. lacustris*, both fractions showed changes in levels of Schiff bases at  
220 31 °C. It should be noted that in case of neutral lipids, the reaction was short-term, while in the  
221 phospholipid fraction, content of Schiff bases deviated from the basal level till the end of  
222 exposure.

223

## 224 Discussion

225 Various features of the nonspecific cellular stress-response (NCSR) have been outlined  
226 here for a saltwater population of *G. lacustris* in order to describe the molecular underpinnings of  
227 this species' the species adaptive potential. This is particularly pertinent when, considering that  
228 in the near-future, it is predicted that this species will inhabit in contrast thermal conditions as a  
229 result.

230 The saltwater individuals of *G. lacustris* are more thermoresistant than freshwater  
231 individuals of the same species. The time taken for 50% of individuals held at 30 °C to reach  
232 mortality (LT50) is 15.1 hours less in freshwater specimens than in those from saltwater  
233 populations (Vereshchagina et al., 2016). Additionally, the thermal tolerance of these saltwater  
234 populations is associated with a lower metabolic cost than in freshwater populations. There is a  
235 lower energetic demand associated with sustaining osmotic pressure for *G. lacustris* individuals  
236 in a salt lake, as the water is isoosmotic to the hemolymph of freshwater amphipods. In contrast,  
237 the freshwater populations live in a hypoosmotic environment, which is costly on metabolic  
238 energy and affects their ability to provide energy for NCSR (Vereshchagina et al., 2016).

239 The components of NCSR are highly conservative; they are described diply in a number  
240 of model and non-model organisms (Lushchak, 2011; Elder, Seibel, 2015). Nevertheless, the  
241 molecular underpinnings of adaptation, which are caused by the micro-evolution of NCSR  
242 regulatory pathways, are still not described. There are some significant NCSR components, such  
243 as heat shock proteins (HSPs) and specifically HSP70, which are essential in cellular protection  
244 during environmental change. In terms of evolution, HSPs are highly conservative proteins that  
245 are found in all organisms from bacteria to humans (Rhee, 2009; Sakharov, 2009; Xie, 2017).  
246 This demonstrates that these proteins fulfil fundamental cellular functions. As molecular  
247 chaperones, HSPs participate in multiple cellular processes including protein folding and  
248 transport of proteins through membranes; they also take part in renaturation of cellular proteins  
249 that were partially denaturated by proteotoxic stressors (Tomanek, 2010; Shatilina et al., 2011).  
250 The participation of HSP70 in response to temperature change has been shown in many  
251 organisms, where these proteins function as protectors preventing degradation of cellular  
252 proteins under changes in temperature (Sørensen et al., 2003; Timofeyev, Steinberg, 2006).  
253 Stress-induced HSP70 synthesis has been intensively studiedstudied in model organisms, and it  
254 was found that partially denaturated proteins occurring in cells leads to the activation of a signal

255 cascade and an elevated gene expression of stress-induced *hsp70*. However, elevation of the  
256 stress-induced HSP70 is energetically demanding; the demanding molecular and biochemical  
257 adaptation of the organisms to their temperature niches is often implemented through sustaining  
258 the pool of HSP70 proteins in the cells in an amount that is sufficient for protecting cellular  
259 proteins from damage under varying abiotic parameters (Bedulina et al., 2013; Garbuz et al,  
260 2017). This is expressed in high constitutively-synthesized levels of HSP70 in cells, and there is  
261 no vibrant response to the stress. Basal levels of both constitutive and stress-inducible HSP70  
262 forms can vary significantly in different species and in separate populations of the same species  
263 when populations are adapted to different environmental conditions. Our previous study showed  
264 that in *G. lacustris* from a freshwater population (Irkutsk region), a significant 9-fold HSP70  
265 elevation was observed under gradual temperature change up to 31 °C (Axenov-Gribanov et al.,  
266 2016). It is worth noting that multifold HSP70 accumulations in the freshwater population were  
267 observed immediately prior to the critical thermal mortality point of 100% individuals (Axenov-  
268 Gribanov et al., 2016). The results of the current study demonstrate that such multifold  
269 elevations multifold of HSP70 levels do not occur in saltwater lake populations of *G. lacustris*.  
270 This indicates that there are key differences in the mechanisms for cellular regulation of stress-  
271 induced HSP70 synthesis in different populations of the same species. Revealing the nature of  
272 such differences is essential for understanding the molecular underpinnings of the phenotypic  
273 plasticity in this species when adapting to various environmental changes.

274 High levels of constitutive HSP70, other molecular chaperones, and other NCSR  
275 components in the cells of saltwater animals may possibly explain the lack of HSP70  
276 accumulation observed here. Our previous study (Vereshchagina et al., 2016) found elevated  
277 levels of antioxidant enzyme activity for catalase and glutathione S-transferase in saltwater  
278 *G. lacustris* when compared to the freshwater population. These high levels suggest higher  
279 constitutive levels of NCSR in cells; however further research is required to confirm the causes  
280 of the observed differences.

281 It is known that in ambient temperature variation, the energy deficiency of cells increases  
282 due to a malfunction of the electron transport chain, which forces the organisms to activate less  
283 efficient energy recovery pathways, in particularly the anaerobic glycolysis pathway, leading to  
284 changes the activity of lactate dehydrogenase (Axenov-Gribanov et al., 2016). During glycolysis,  
285 lactate dehydrogenase catalyses in the reversible reaction of the pyruvate–lactate conversion. In

286 the presence of oxygen, pyruvate converts into acetyl coenzyme A and enters the Krebs cycle;  
287 however, in anaerobic conditions, or if the mitochondrial electron transport chain is damaged,  
288 pyruvate is reversibly converted into lactate (Devlin, 2011). During this study, it was shown that  
289 in *G. lacustris*, the activity of lactate dehydrogenase decreased 16-fold in the first stages of the  
290 experiment, when the temperature increased from 7 °C to 11 °C (Fig. 2). This decrease in lactate  
291 dehydrogenase activity may have been induced by pyruvate levels increasing during glucose  
292 oxygen catabolism. In concentrations over 4 mM (Fregoso-Peñuñuri et al., 2017), pyruvate is  
293 capable of inhibiting the enzyme activity in crustaceans. In another study, we demonstrated the  
294 elevation of adenosine triphosphate (ATP) and the depletion of glucose content in the first phases  
295 of exposure to gradual temperature increase when starting from 13 °C (Vereshchagina et al.,  
296 2016). This also denotes the activation of glucose oxygen catabolism. In that same study, at 23  
297 °C, lactate dehydrogenase activity increased up to control levels again, which provided evidence  
298 for activation of anaerobic glycolysis processes at these temperatures; though, when 27 °C is  
299 reached, the enzyme activity reduced again and remained low until the end of the experiment. It  
300 is worth noting that the multifold accumulation of lactate, as the main marker for anaerobiosis in  
301 crustaceans, was observed in this population only when reaching 31 °C. At the same time, the  
302 adenosine triphosphate level did not show a significant decrease (Vereshchagina et al., 2016).

303 In our early studies, the decreased lactate dehydrogenase activity in gradual temperature  
304 increase was also observed in *G. lacustris* freshwater population on reaching 17 °C.  
305 Nevertheless, we observed a direct correlation between the elevation of lactate and decrease of  
306 ATP levels. This indirectly provides support for the theory that anaerobic processes prevail over  
307 aerobiosis in the freshwater population, with incomplete deactivation of the aerobic process.  
308 Considerable and multiple lactate accumulations in the freshwater population were noted on  
309 reaching 29 °C, which was also accompanied with a decrease of lactate dehydrogenase activity  
310 (Axenov-Gribanov et al., 2016; Vereshchagina et al., 2016). Thus, the data received in this study  
311 supports our early results concerning significant differences in energy metabolism regulation  
312 between *G. lacustris* salt and freshwater populations.

313 One of the possible causes of shifting energy balance toward anaerobiosis may be the  
314 increasing oxidation processes in cells, and the development of oxidative stress (Krone, 1994).  
315 The latter often occurs when an accumulation of oxygen actively forms. In this study, oxidative  
316 stress is indicated by the change in the levels of lipid peroxidation products – diene (primary

317 products) and triene (secondary products) conjugates, and Schiff bases (end products) in *G.*  
318 *lacustris* (Fig. 3, 4, 5). It is notable that accumulation of the most toxic lipid peroxides (triene  
319 conjugates and Schiff bases) in phospholipids occurs at the same time and temperature of  
320 exposure as the accumulation of lactate (Vereshchagina et al., 2016). This supports the concept  
321 of oxygen-and capacity-limited thermal tolerance (OCLTT) (Pörtner et al., 2017). The concept  
322 deals with molecular mechanisms sustaining oxygen metabolism, which determine the thermal  
323 tolerance limits for each species. According to this concept, when environmental parameters  
324 deviate from optimal values, organisms switch their metabolism and increase the number of  
325 anaerobic energetic pathways. This leads to an accumulation of lactate and other products of  
326 anaerobic metabolism (acetate, succinate etc.) in the tissues of animals. Development of cellular  
327 stress, changes in the structure and functions of cell membranes, and the activation of lipid  
328 peroxidation processes occur at the same time.

329 In our study, in *G. lacustris* in neutral lipids (heptane fraction), a decreased level of diene  
330 conjugates was observed when the temperature reached 21 °C (Fig. 3). Since no relevant growth  
331 was observed in triene conjugate and Schiff base levels, this can evidence that low-molecular  
332 antioxidants are included in antioxidant protection (Kenya et al., 1993; Mittler, 2002).

333

### 334 **Conclusions**

335 Gradual temperature increase caused a complex of biochemical reactions in the saltwater  
336 *G. lacustris* studied here, which were expressed by reduced lactate dehydrogenase activity and  
337 the activation of lipid peroxidation. There was no multifold increase in HSP70 levels, probably  
338 due to the initially high pool of these proteins in cells, which is energy-efficient for these  
339 organisms. The obtained data supports the earlier hypothesis that the increased thermotolerance  
340 of *G. lacustris* from the saltwater lake Shira, as compared to a freshwater lake population of the  
341 same species, is caused by the differences in energetic metabolic processes and the energy  
342 supply of NCSR mechanisms (Axenov-Gribanov et al., 2016; Vereshchagina et al., 2016). With  
343 the development of global climate warming, these reactions could be advantageous for saltwater  
344 *G. lacustris*. Additionally, the studied biochemical reactions can be used as biomarkers for the  
345 stress status of aquatic organisms when their habitat temperature changes.

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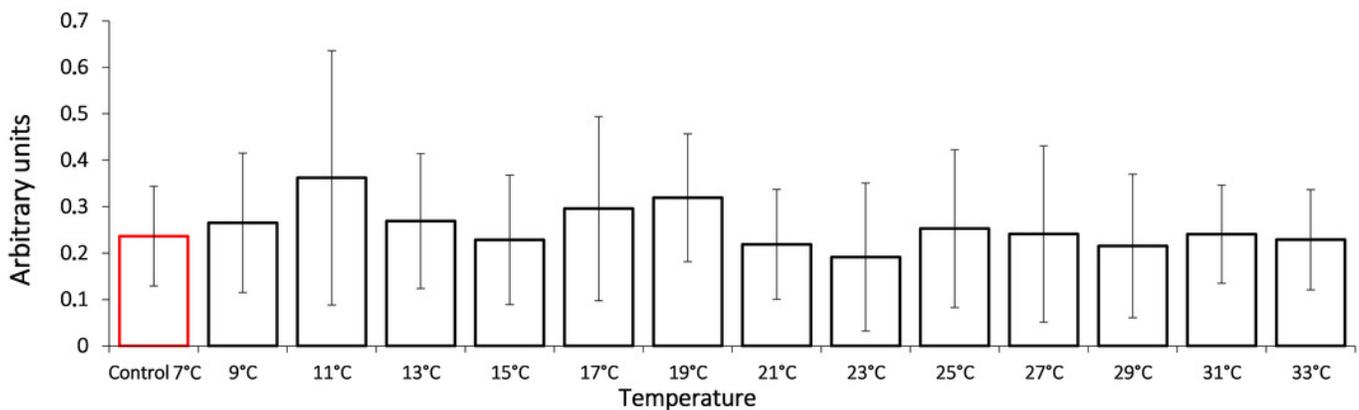
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556

## Figure 1

HSP70 levels in lake Shira *G. lacustris* amphipods during exposure to gradual temperature increase (1°C/h).

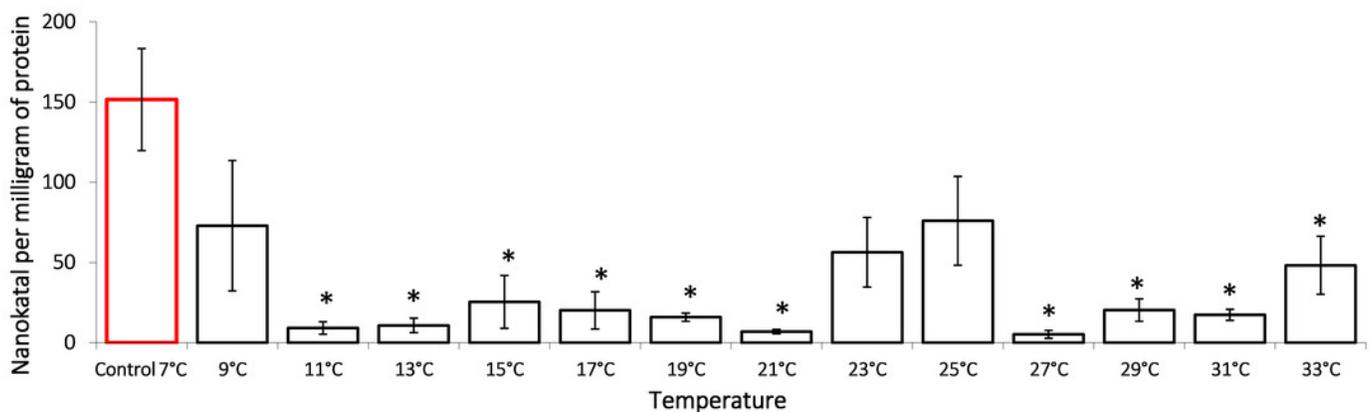
HSP70 levels presented in arbitrary units. Columns highlighted by red outline indicate the control level. Data are presented as means  $\pm$  standard deviation of the mean. Ind. - indicates number of individuals of amphipods. Number of replicates: n, 7°C= 3 (12 ind.); n, 9°C= 5 (20 ind.); n, 11°C= 4 (16 ind.); n, 13°C= 3 (12 ind.); n, 15°C= 4 (16 ind.); n, 17°C= 5 (20 ind.); n, 19°C= 4 (16 ind.); n, 21°C= 5 (20 ind.); n, 23°C= 4 (16 ind.); n, 25°C= 4 (16 ind.); n, 27°C= 4 (16 ind.); n, 29°C= 4 (16 ind.); n, 31 °C= 5 (20 ind.); n, 33 °C= 4 (16 ind.).



## Figure 2

Lactate dehydrogenase activity (in nKat/mg of protein) in lake Shira *G. lacustris* amphipods during exposure to gradual temperature increase (1°C/h).

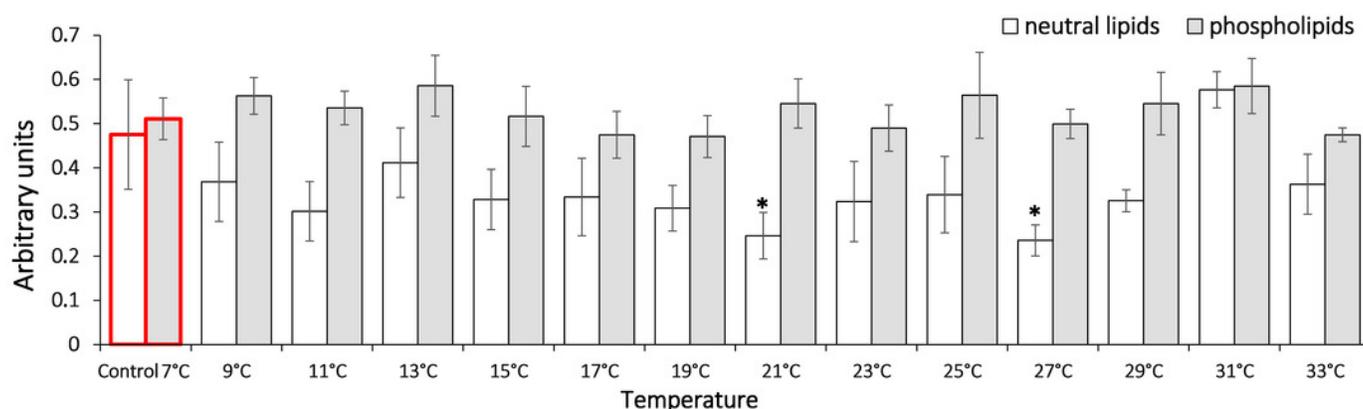
Columns highlighted by red outline indicate the control level. Asterisks (\*) denotes a significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the control 7°C. Data are presented as means  $\pm$  standard deviation of the mean. Ind. - indicates number of individuals of amphipods. Number of replicates: n, 7°C= 3 (12 ind.); n, 9°C= 5 (20 ind.); n, 11°C= 3 (12 ind.); n, 13°C= 3 (12 ind.); n, 15°C= 4 (16 ind.); n, 17°C= 4 (16 ind.); n, 19°C= 4 (16 ind.); n, 21°C= 3 (12 ind.); n, 23°C= 4 (16 ind.); n, 25°C= 3 (12 ind.); n, 27°C= 4 (16 ind.); n, 29°C= 3 (12 ind.); n, 31 °C= 3 (12 ind.); n, 33 °C= 4 (16 ind.).



## Figure 3

Levels of diene conjugates in neutral lipids (heptane fraction) and phospholipids (isopropanol fraction) in lake Shira *G. lacustris* amphipods during exposure to gradual temperature increase (1°C/h).

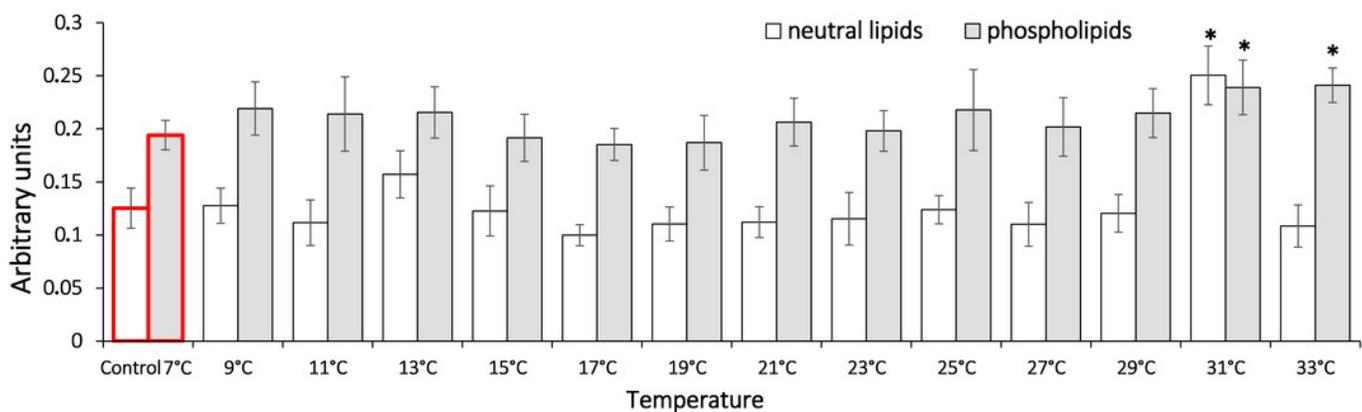
Diene conjugate levels presented in arbitrary units. Columns highlighted by red outline indicate the control level. Asterisks (\*) denotes a significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the control 7°C. Data are presented as means  $\pm$  standard deviation of the mean. Ind. - indicates number of individuals of amphipods. Number of replicates (neutral lipids): n, 7°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 9°C= 5 (20 ind.); n, 11°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 13°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 15°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 17°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 19°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 21°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 23°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 25°C= 5 (20 ind.); n, 27°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 29°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 31 °C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 33 °C= 6 (24 ind.). Number of replicates (phospholipids): n, 7°C= 8 (32 ind.), n, 9°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 11°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 13°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 15°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 17°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 19°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 21°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 23°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 25°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 27°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 29°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 31 °C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 33 °C= 6 (24 ind.).



## Figure 4

Levels of triene conjugates in neutral lipids (heptane fraction) and phospholipids (isopropanol fraction) in lake Shira *G. lacustris* amphipods during exposure to gradual temperature increase (1°C/h).

Triene conjugate levels presented in arbitrary units. Columns highlighted by red outline indicate the control level. Asterisks (\*) denotes a significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the control 7°C. Data are presented as means  $\pm$  standard deviation of the mean. Ind. - indicates number of individuals of amphipods. Number of replicates (neutral lipids): n, 7°C= 5 (20 ind.); n, 9°C= 5 (20 ind.); n, 11°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 13°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 15°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 17°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 19°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 21°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 23°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 25°C= 5 (20 ind.); n, 27°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 29°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 31 °C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 33 °C= 6 (24 ind.). Number of replicates (phospholipids): n, 7°C= 8 (32 ind.); n, 9°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 11°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 13°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 15°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 17°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 19°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 21°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 23°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 25°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 27°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 29°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 31 °C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 33 °C= 6 (24 ind.).



## Figure 5

Levels of Schiff's bases in neutral lipids (heptane fraction) and phospholipids (isopropanol fraction) in lake Shira *G. lacustris* amphipods during exposure to gradual temperature increase (1°C/h).

Schiff's base levels presented in arbitrary units. Columns highlighted by red outline indicate the control level. Asterisks (\*) denotes a significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the control 7°C. Data are presented as means  $\pm$  standard deviation of the mean. Ind. - indicates number of individuals of amphipods. Number of replicates (neutral lipids): n, 7°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 9°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 11°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 13°C= 5 (20 ind.); n, 15°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 17°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 19°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 21°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 23°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 25°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 27°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 29°C= 5 (20 ind.); n, 31 °C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 33 °C= 6 (24 ind.). Number of replicates (phospholipids): n, 7°C= 8 (32 ind.); n, 9°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 11°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 13°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 15°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 17°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 19°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 21°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 23°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 25°C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 27°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 29°C= 7 (28 ind.); n, 31 °C= 6 (24 ind.); n, 33 °C= 6 (24 ind.).

