

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 as observed in our previous associated study, 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 change, 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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22 **Abstract**

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
31 significantly during the entire experiment. In agreement with the concept of oxygen-limited
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
34 lactate. The main criterion overriding the temperature threshold was therefore the transition to
35 anaerobiosis, confirmed by the elevated lactate levels as observed in our previous associated
36 study, and by the development of cellular stress, which was expressed by an accumulation of
37 lipid peroxidation products. An earlier hypothesis, based on freshwater individuals of the same
38 species, has been confirmed whereby the increased thermotolerance of *G. lacustris* from the
39 saltwater lake was caused by differences in energy metabolism and energy supply of nonspecific
40 cellular stress-response mechanisms. With the development of global climate change, these
41 reactions could be advantageous for saltwater *G. lacustris*. The studied biochemical reactions can
42 be used as biomarkers for the stress status of aquatic organisms when their habitat temperature
43 changes.

44 Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

92 *G. lacustris* is a suitable model to experimentally investigate the impact of different
93 abiotic and biotic stress factors. It has a wide distribution across Northern Hemisphere (Wilhelm,
94 Schindler, 2001). *G. lacustris* inhabits lentic and lotic ecosystems and has a wide ecological
95 valence (Väinölä, 2007; Takhteev, 2015). Food spectrum of *G. lacustris* is broad. Being an
96 opportunistic species, in standard conditions it prefers detritus and plant material (Gladyshev et
97 al., 2000). From the previous study, preferable temperature for this species is 15-16 °C and it is
98 highly tolerant to a wide range of environment pH variations (6.2-9.2) (Timofeyev, 2010). Also,
99 *G. lacustris* is highly tolerant to hypoxia, especially in low water temperature. Thereby, this
100 species is a regular inhabitant of eutrophic water bodies. In addition, this species is an
101 indispensable component of many ecosystems. Thereby, *G. lacustris* is a top predator in food
102 chain in Lake Shira (Republic of Khakassia). Noteworthy, the juvenile representatives
103 predominantly inhabit a depth 1.5-2 m, whereas adult individuals stay apart and live at a depth
104 5–12 m (Yemelyanova et al., 2002). Due to the fact, that this species is found in most water

105 bodies of the Holarctic, it can be used as an object of bioindication in assessing the impact of
106 climate change on water bodies and their ecosystems.

107

108 **Materials and methods**

109 **Sampling site**

110 *G. lacustris* were caught in July 2013 with a plankton net at depth of 7 m from the
111 southern shore of Lake Shira. The temperature recorded at the time of sampling was 15 °C. The
112 lake is located in Southern Siberia (54°29'7.25" N, 90°12'1.49" E), in the steppe zone of the
113 northern part of the Minusinsk valley (Republic of Khakassia, Russia). Lake Shira is a brackish
114 meromictic water body with a shape of 9.35 × 5.3 km and water surface area of 35.9 km². The
115 maximum depth of the lake reaches 24 m, and the average depth is about 11.2 m (Degermendzhy
116 et al., 2010; Rogozin et al., 2017). The sampling site represents diverse soils that contain gravel,
117 sand, stone, clay and mud; the sublittoral comprises sand with small stones and gray mud; the
118 black mud prevails in pelagic zone (Yemelyanova et al., 2002).

119 Lake Shira is one of the most saline water bodies (15–17 ‰) inhabited by *G. lacustris*. Its
120 chemical composition corresponds to the following anion-cation ratio (mg/L): Cl⁻ - 2100, Na⁺ -
121 2880, K⁺ - 37, Mg²⁺ - 1080, CO₃²⁻ - 174, Ca²⁺ - 51, SO₄²⁻ - 8010, HCO₃⁻ - 998, and environmental
122 pH is close to 8.7 (Kalacheva et al., 2002). In summer, water temperature in the lake littoral zone
123 can reach 28 °C, while the mean annual temperature of water is about 7 °C (Rogozin et al.,
124 2017).

125 **Experimental design and animal maintenance**

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

138 Gradual temperature increase experiments were carried out at the rate of 1 °C per hour by
139 use of a refrigerated bath circulator (CRYO-VT-11, Tomsk, Russia) continuing until 100%
140 mortality occurred (modified from Sokolova and Pörtner (2003)). After every 2 °C of
141 temperature increase (i.e., every 2 hours) four specimens were randomly collected from each
142 tank, thus, from three to eight replicates were taken at each temperature treatment and shock-
143 frozen in liquid nitrogen. Fixations were conducted upon reaching definite temperatures – 9 °C
144 (2 h of exposure), 11 °C (4 h), 13 °C (6 h), 15 °C (8 h), 17 °C (10 h), 19 °C (12 h), 21 °C (14 h),
145 23 °C (16 h), 25 °C (18 h), 27 °C (20 h), 29 °C (22 h), 31 °C (24 h) and 33 °C (26 h).

146 **Biochemical methods**

147 **Assessment of heat shock proteins 70 content**

148 Total protein was isolated in 0.1 M Tris HCl (pH 7.6). The amount of protein in samples
149 was determined using the M. Bradford method (Bradford, 1976) at 595 nm wavelength. Optical
150 density was measured using the Cary 50 UV/VIS spectrophotometer (Varian, Australia). HSP70
151 dynamics was determined using standard sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel
152 electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) in 12.5% polyacrylamide gel, followed by Western blotting
153 (Laemmli, 1970). For HSP70 visualization, at first, the obtained membranes were incubated with
154 antibodies to HSP70 (monoclonal Anti-Heat Shock Protein 70 antibody produced in mouse;
155 Sigma-Aldrich, # H5147, 1:1000 dilution). Then, after washing off the unbound antibody, the
156 membranes were incubated in the solution of secondary antibodies conjugated with alkaline
157 phosphatase (Anti-Mouse IgG (whole molecule) – Alkaline Phosphatase antibody produced in
158 goat, Sigma-Aldrich # A3562, 1:1000 dilution). We used actin as the reference protein. For actin
159 visualization, the following antibodies were used: polyclonal anti- α -actin antibodies produced in
160 rabbit (Sigma-Aldrich #A2668, 1:1000 dilution) and secondary anti-rabbit antibodies (Sigma-
161 Aldrich #A9919, 1:1000 dilution). Hsp70 and actin levels were measured by semi-quantitative
162 analysis of grey values on scanned Western blot membranes using ImageJ Package (v.1.41.,
163 Wayne Rasband, NIH, USA). The levels of Hsp70 were normalized relative to α -actin
164 expression in each sample and given in arbitrary units (arb. un.).

165 **Measurement of lactate dehydrogenase activity**

166 Activity of lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) was measured using the enzymatic
167 spectrophotometric method. This method is based on the reaction of pyruvate converting into
168 lactate. NADH to NAD⁺ oxidation rate is proportional to the LDH activity. Measurements were

169 taken in buffered sodium phosphate solution (0.1 M, pH=7.5) using the LDH-Vital express kit (B
170 23.01, Vital-Development Corporation, Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation) at 340 nm
171 wavelength and $t=25\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ according to the manufacturer's instructions. Optical density was
172 measured using the Cary 50 UV/VIS spectrophotometer (Varian, Australia).

173 **Measurement of lipid peroxidation product level**

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

187 **Statistical analysis**

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

198 **Results**

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

201 It is shown that the gradual temperature increase leads to lactate dehydrogenase activity
202 decrease, an important component of anaerobic metabolism (Fig. 2). During the exposure,
203 *G. lacustris* demonstrated a reliable 16-fold decrease of the enzyme activity from 151.57±3.80
204 nKat/mg of protein to 9.19±3.83 nKat/mg of protein on reaching 11 °C. Within the range from
205 11 °C to 21 °C, the enzyme activity remained low. After that, we observed a short-term
206 reactivation up to 56.37±21.68 nKat/mg of protein and 75.97±27.69 nKat/mg protein in exposure
207 temperatures of 25 °C and 27 °C, respectively. However, at the exposure temperatures over
208 27 °C, the enzyme activity was again lower than the control levels.

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

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

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

225

226 Discussion

227 Various features of the nonspecific cellular stress-response (NCSR) have been outlined
228 here for a saltwater population of *G. lacustris* in order to describe the molecular underpinnings of
229 this species' adaptive potential. This is particularly pertinent, considering that in the near future,
230 it is predicted that this species might be subjected to changing thermal conditions.

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

240 The components of NCSR are highly conserved; they are well described in a number of
241 model and non-model organisms (Lushchak, 2011; Elder, Seibel, 2015). Nevertheless, the
242 molecular basis of adaptation, which are caused by the micro-evolution of NCSR regulatory
243 pathways, are still not described. There are some significant NCSR components, such as heat
244 shock proteins (HSPs) and specifically HSP70, which are essential in cellular protection during
245 environmental change. In terms of evolution, HSPs are highly conserved proteins that are found
246 in all organisms from bacteria to humans (Rhee, 2009; Sakharov, 2009; Xie, 2017). 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 denatured 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 (Sørensen et al., 2003; Timofeyev, Steinberg, 2006). However, elevation of the stress-
253 induced HSP70 is energetically demanding; the demanding molecular and biochemical
254 adaptation of the organisms to their temperature niches is often implemented through sustaining
255 the pool of HSP70 proteins in the cells in an amount that is sufficient for protecting cellular
256 proteins from damage under varying abiotic parameters (Bedulina et al., 2013; Garbuz et al,

257 2017). This is expressed in high constitutively-synthesized levels of HSP70 in cells, and there is
258 no vibrant response to the stress. Basal levels of both constitutive and stress-inducible HSP70
259 forms can vary significantly in different species and in separate populations of the same species
260 when populations are adapted to different environmental conditions. Our previous study showed
261 that in *G. lacustris* from a freshwater population (Irkutsk region), a significant 9-fold HSP70
262 elevation was observed under gradual temperature change up to 31 °C (Axenov-Gribanov et al.,
263 2016). It is worth noting that multifold HSP70 accumulations in the freshwater population were
264 observed immediately prior to the critical thermal mortality point of 100% individuals (Axenov-
265 Gribanov et al., 2016). The results of the current study demonstrate that such multifold
266 elevations of HSP70 levels do not occur in saltwater lake populations of *G. lacustris*. This
267 indicates that there are key differences in the mechanisms for cellular regulation of stress-
268 induced HSP70 synthesis in different populations of the same species. Revealing the nature of
269 such differences is essential for understanding the molecular basis of the phenotypic plasticity in
270 this species when adapting to various environmental changes.

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

278 It is known that in ambient temperature variation, the energy deficiency of cells increases
279 due to a malfunction of the electron transport chain, which forces the organisms to activate less
280 efficient energy recovery pathways, in particularly the anaerobic glycolysis pathway, leading to
281 changes the activity of lactate dehydrogenase (Axenov-Gribanov et al., 2016). During glycolysis,
282 lactate dehydrogenase catalyses in the reversible reaction of the pyruvate–lactate conversion. In
283 the presence of oxygen, pyruvate converts into acetyl coenzyme A and enters the Krebs cycle;
284 however, in anaerobic conditions, or if the mitochondrial electron transport chain is damaged,
285 pyruvate is reversibly converted into lactate (Devlin, 2011). During this study, it was shown that
286 in *G. lacustris*, the activity of lactate dehydrogenase decreased 16-fold in the first stages of the
287 experiment, when the temperature increased from 7 °C to 11 °C (Fig. 2). This decrease in lactate

288 dehydrogenase activity may have been induced by pyruvate levels increasing during glucose
289 oxygen catabolism. In concentrations over 4 mM (Fregoso-Peñuñuri et al., 2017), pyruvate is
290 capable of inhibiting the enzyme activity in crustaceans. In another study, we demonstrated the
291 elevation of adenosine triphosphate (ATP) and the depletion of glucose content in the first phases
292 of exposure to gradual temperature increase when starting from 13 °C (Vereshchagina et al.,
293 2016). This also denotes the activation of glucose oxygen catabolism. In that same study, at 23
294 °C, lactate dehydrogenase activity increased up to control levels again, which provided evidence
295 for activation of anaerobic glycolysis processes at these temperatures; though, when 27 °C is
296 reached, the enzyme activity reduced again and remained low until the end of the experiment. It
297 is worth noting that the multifold accumulation of lactate, as the main marker for anaerobiosis in
298 crustaceans, was observed in this population only when reaching 31 °C. At the same time, the
299 adenosine triphosphate level did not show a significant decrease (Vereshchagina et al., 2016).

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

310 One of the possible causes of shifting energy balance toward anaerobiosis may be the
311 increasing oxidation processes in cells, and the development of oxidative stress (Krone, 1994).
312 The latter often occurs when an accumulation of oxygen actively forms. In this study, oxidative
313 stress is indicated by the change in the levels of lipid peroxidation products – diene (primary
314 products) and triene (secondary products) conjugates, and Schiff bases (end products) in *G.*
315 *lacustris* (Fig. 3, 4, 5). It is notable that accumulation of the most toxic lipid peroxides (triene
316 conjugates and Schiff bases) in phospholipids occurs at the same time and temperature of
317 exposure as the accumulation of lactate (Vereshchagina et al., 2016). This supports the concept
318 of oxygen-and capacity-limited thermal tolerance (OCLTT) (Pörtner et al., 2017). The concept

319 deals with molecular mechanisms sustaining oxygen metabolism, which determine the thermal
320 tolerance limits for each species. According to this concept, when environmental parameters
321 deviate from optimal values, organisms switch their metabolism to anaerobiosis. This leads to an
322 accumulation of lactate and other products of anaerobic metabolism (acetate, succinate etc.) in
323 the tissues of animals. Development of cellular stress, changes in the structure and functions of
324 cell membranes, and the activation of lipid peroxidation processes occur at the same time.

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

329

330 **Conclusions**

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

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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.).

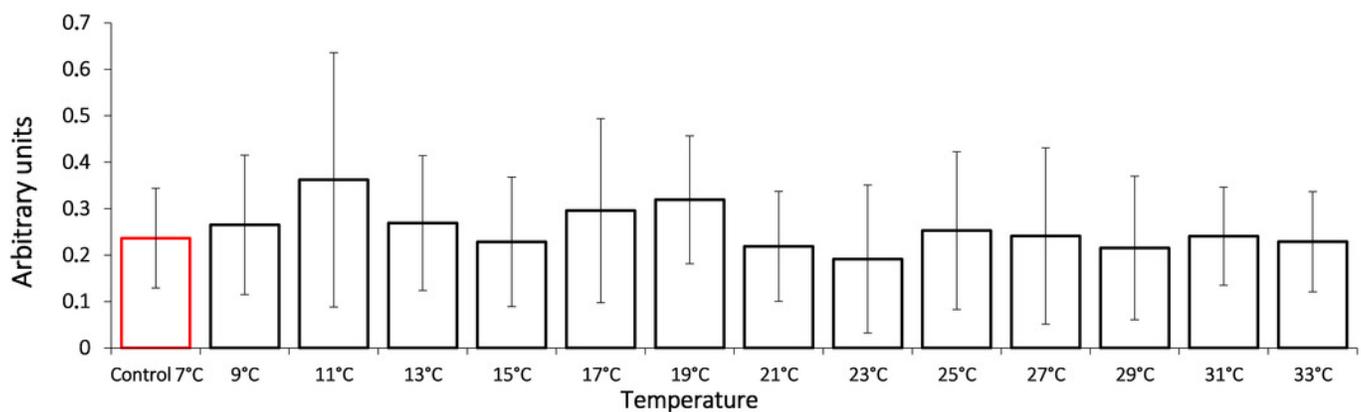


Figure 2

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.).

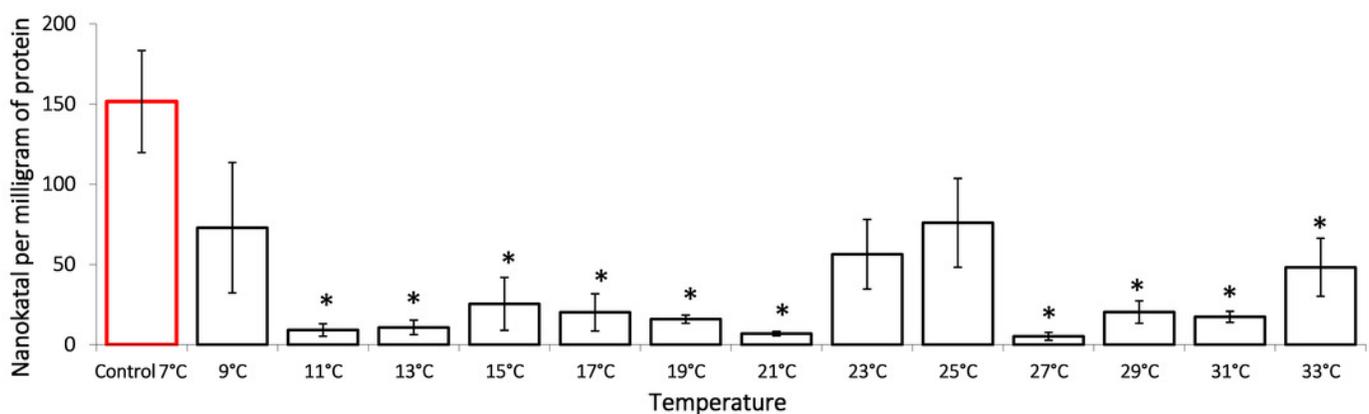


Figure 3

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.).

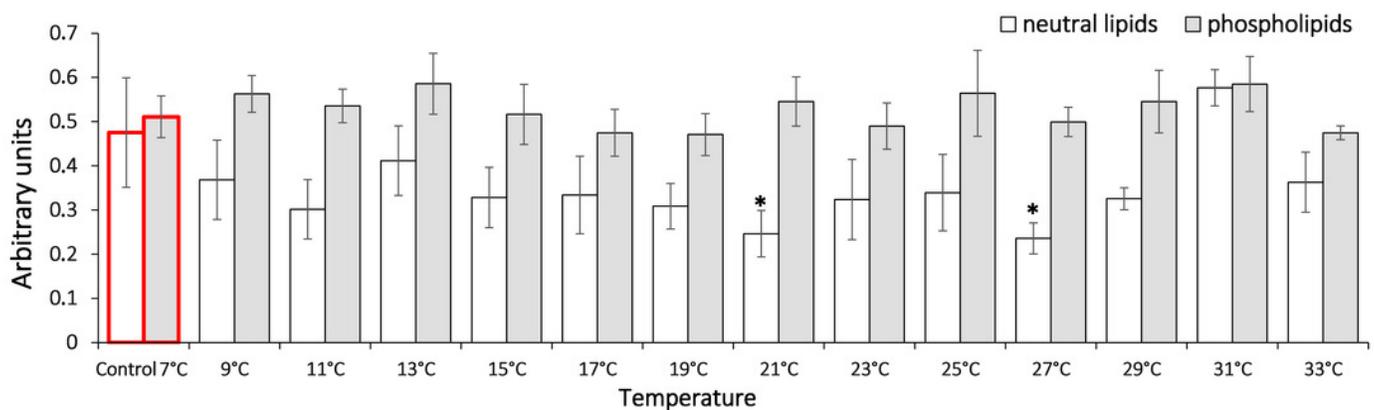


Figure 4

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.).

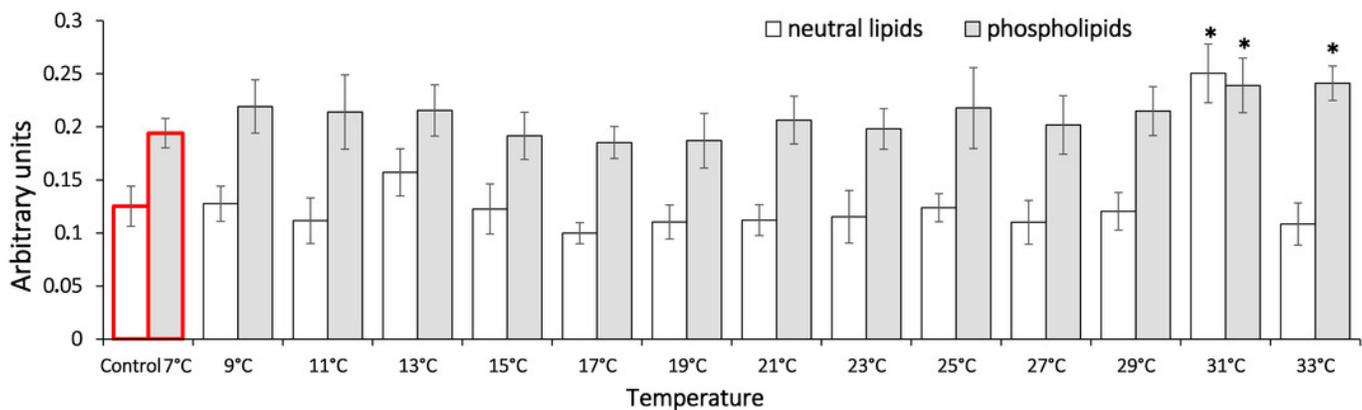


Figure 5

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.).

