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Evolutionary Biology

Bacigalupe L, Gaitan-Espitia JD, Barria AM, Gonzalez-Mendez A, Ruiz-Aravena M, Mark Trinder M and Sinervo B. 2018. **Natural selection on plasticity of thermal traits in a highly seasonal environment**. *bioRxiv*, 191825, https://doi.org/10.1101/191825

An article reviewed and recommended by *Peer Community In Evolutionary Biology*:
http://dx.doi.org/10.24072/pci.evolbiol.100048

Natural selection on plasticity of thermal traits in a highly seasonal environment

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Abstract

This preprint has been reviewed and recommended by Peer Community In Evolutionary Biology (http://dx.doi.org/10.24072/pci.evolbiol.100048). For ectothermic species with broad geographical distributions, latitudinal/altitudinal variation in environmental temperatures (averages and extremes) are expected to shape the evolution of physiological tolerances and the acclimation capacity (i.e., degree of phenotypic plasticity) of natural populations. This can create geographical gradients of selection in which environments with greater thermal variability (e.g., seasonality) tend to favour individuals that maximize performance across a broader range of temperatures compared to more stable environments. Although thermal acclimation capacity plays a fundamental role in this context, it is unknown whether natural selection targets this trait in natural populations. Here we addressed such an important gap in our knowledge by measuring survival, through mark recapture integrated into an information-theoretic approach, as a function of the plasticity of critical thermal limits for activity, behavioural thermal preference and the thermal sensitivity of metabolism in the northernmost population of the four-eyed frog *Pleurodema thaul*. Overall, our results indicate that thermal acclimation in this population is not being targeted by directional selection, although there might be signals of selection on individual traits. According to the most supported models, survival decreased in individuals with less tolerance to cold when cold-acclimated (probably because daily low extremes are frequent during the cooler periods of the year) and increased with body size. However, in both cases, the directional selection estimates were non-significant.

Keywords: Amphibians, natural selection, physiological plasticity, acclimation, *Pleurodema thaul*, Atacama Desert

Introduction

It is well known that environmental temperature (T_a) is the abiotic factor with major incidence in the evolution, ecology and physiology of most of the biodiversity in the planet (Angilletta 2009 and references therein). The effects of T_a are particularly relevant for ectotherms as their body temperature depends on T_a and therefore any change in T_a affects their fitness and performance (e.g. behaviour, growth, reproduction, metabolism). This relationship between performance and temperature has been described by a thermal performance curve (TPC) (Huey & Berrigan 2001; Angilletta 2009) which has often been used to describe the thermal ecology and evolution of ectotherms (Gilchrist 1995; Huey & Kingsolver 1989), their phenotypic plasticity (Schulte et al. 2011), and to predict their responses to climate change (Clusella-Trullas et al. 2011; Sinclair et al. 2016). The TPC is best captured by three parameters: a minimum critical temperature (CT_{Min}), which represents T_a below which performance is minimum; a maximum critical temperature (CT_{Max}), which represents T_a above which performance is also minimum and an optimum temperature (T_{Opt}), which represents T_a at which performance is maximum. Most of these parameters can exhibit geographic variation depending on the particular environmental context (e.g., local climate) and genetic background of populations (Gilchrist 1996; Kingsolver et al. 2004; Latimer et al. 2011). Furthermore, this geographic variation has the potential to create gradients of selection for TPCs across the species distribution (Kingsolver & Gomulkiewicz 2003) shaping thermal sensitivities, tolerances and thermal acclimation capacities (i.e., thermal plasticity) of local populations (Seebacher et al. 2012; Gaitan-Espitia et al. 2014).

Different climate-related hypotheses have been proposed to explain how physiological tolerances, capacities and their plasticity affect the distributional ranges of species (Bozinovic et

al. 2011). One of them, the climate variability hypothesis (CVH), offers a powerful conceptual framework to explore the interactions between environmental variability and physiological performance of ectotherms (e.g., Gaitan-Espitia et al. 2013; 2014). The CVH predicts that organisms inhabiting more variable environments should have broader ranges of environmental tolerance and/or greater physiological plasticity that enable them to cope with the fluctuating environmental conditions (e.g., seasonality) (Ghalambor et al. 2006; Gaitan-Espitia et al. 2017). In agreement with this hypothesis, other theoretical models have explored the evolutionary mechanisms underlying local thermal adaptation across heterogeneous environments (e.g., Generalist-Specialist models). For instance, the model developed by Lynch and Gabriel (1987), predicts that temporal environmental heterogeneity selects for more broadly adapted individuals, whereas in more constant environments the model developed by Gilchrist (1995), predicts that selection should favor thermal specialists with narrow performance breadth. The mechanistic understanding of these conceptual frameworks has improved with recent studies showing how in thermally variable environments directional selection acts on TPC's parameters favoring organisms that maximize performance across a broader range of temperatures (Logan et al. 2014) despite the ability of ectotherms to thermoregulate behaviorally (Buckley et al. 2015). Notwithstanding this progress, whether natural selection targets thermal acclimation capacity (i.e., plasticity) itself in natural populations remains unknown.

In addition to increasing mean temperatures, it is known that climate change is changing the frequency and intensity of extreme temperatures and events (Rahmstorf & Coumou 2011; Wang & Dillon 2014; Vazquez et al. 2016). This, in turn, suggests that both averages and variances will have an important impact on different performance related traits (e.g. Lardies et al.

92 2014; Vasseur et al. 2014; Bartheld et al. 2017). Nevertheless, we still do not know whether
93 selection might also target traits as a function of those extremes.
94 In this context, populations inhabiting highly seasonal environments characterized also by
95 daily extreme temperatures, provide a natural laboratory to evaluate the role of natural selection
96 on the plasticity of critical thermal limits and preferences. We addressed such important gaps in
97 our knowledge by measuring for the first time survival as a function of the plasticity of thermal
98 critical temperatures (CT_{Max} and CT_{Min}), preferred temperature (T_{Pref}) and thermal sensitivity of
99 metabolism (Q_{10}; the magnitude of change in metabolic rate for a 10ºC change in T_a) after
100 acclimation to 10°C and 20°C in the northernmost population of the four-eyed frog *Pleurodema*
101 *thaul*. We tested four predictions regarding phenotypic selection and plasticity that built up from
102 previous findings showing that acclimation to warmer temperatures produces an increase in the
103 upper but not in the lower limits of the thermal performance curve (Ruiz-Aravena et al. 2014)
104 (Fig. 1). First, the high seasonality should select for plasticity in TPC parameters and therefore,
105 the plasticity itself should currently be under directional selection. Second, if daily high extreme
106 temperatures were frequent, then we would expect positive directional selection on CT_{max} when
107 warm as well as cold acclimated. Third, if daily low extremes were frequent, then we would
108 expect negative directional selection on CT_{min} during the cooler periods of the year. Fourth, as
109 energy inputs are limited, the energetic definition of fitness indicates that individuals with higher
110 maintenance costs (i.e. resting metabolic rate) would have less energy available to allocate to
111 growth, reproduction and/or performance. The main prediction of this principle is that natural
112 selection should maximize the residual available energy, and therefore, higher maintenance costs
113 would be associated with lower fitness if no compensations in other functions occur (Bacigalupe

& Bozinovic 2002; Artacho & Nespolo 2009). Thus, our final prediction is that Q_{10} is not under directional selection.

METHODS

Study organism and laboratory maintenance

Eighty-three adults individuals of *P. thaul* were captured during September 2012 on two small ponds at Carrera Pinto (27º06'40.2'' S, 69º53'44.3'' W; 2,000 m.a.s.l.), a small oasis in the Atacama Desert that is known to be the northernmost population of the species (Correa et al. 2007). In both ponds, we performed an exhaustive search across microhabitats (below rocks, in the vegetation and in the water). All individuals were transported to the laboratory (Universidad Austral de Chile, Valdivia) within 2 – 3 days of capture. Following capture all animals were marked by toe clipping and maintained in the laboratory for one month at a temperature of 20º ± 2ºC and with a photoperiod 12D:12L. Animals were housed (N = 5) in terraria (length x width x height: 40 x 20 x 20 cm) provided with a cover of moss and vegetation and a small recipient filled with water. Individuals were fed once a week with mealworms (*Tenebrio sp*. larvae) and Mazuri® gel diets.

Acclimation and thermal traits

After one month at maintenance conditions, in a split cross design half the frogs were acclimated to either 10°C or 20°C for two weeks before measuring thermal traits. Frogs were randomly assigned to the first acclimation temperature using a coin. Next they were acclimated to the other temperature and again measured thermal traits. We chose these acclimation temperatures because they are close to the mean minimum temperatures during the breeding

137 season (August - October, 10ºC) and to the mean temperatures during the active period of the
138 species (20ºC) at Carrera Pinto (www.cr2.cl). None of the investigators were blinded to the
139 group allocation during the experiments.

140 Critical temperatures were determined as the environmental temperature at which an
141 individual was unable to achieve an upright position within 1 minute (Ruiz-Aravena et al. 2014).
142 Each individual was placed in a small chamber inside a thermo-regulated bath (WRC-P8,
143 Daihan, Korea) at 30°C (CT_{Max}) or 5ºC (CT_{Min}) for 15 minutes, after which the bath temperature
144 was increased (or decreased) at a rate of 0.8ºC per minute (Rezende et al. 2011). Every minute or
145 at every 1ºC change, the chamber was turned upside down and we observed if the animal was
146 able to return to the upright position. When an animal was unable to achieve an upright position
147 within 1 minute it was allowed to recover at ambient temperature (CT_{Min}) or for 30 minutes in a
148 box with ice packs (CT_{Max}). Body mass (a proxy of body size) was obtained before each trial
149 using a Shimadzu TX323L electronic balance.

150 Preferred temperature (T_{Pref}) was determined simultaneously for five individuals in five
151 open-top terraria (length x width x height: 85 x 12 x 30 cm). Each terrarium had a thermal
152 gradient between 10ºC and 30ºC produced by an infrared lamp overhead (250 W) on one end,
153 and ice packs on the other. The organic gardening soil was moisturized at the beginning of each
154 trial to prevent the desiccation of the frogs. Five individuals were placed at the centre of each one
155 of the terraria and 45 minutes later we registered T_{Pref} as the dorsal body temperature (T_b) using a
156 UEi INF155 Scout1 infrared thermometer. Dorsal and cloacal T_b are highly associated (r_P =
157 0.99) (see Ruiz-Aravena et al. 2014 for details). Body mass was obtained before each trial using
158 a Shimadzu TX323L electronic balance.

159 Standard metabolic rate, measured through oxygen consumption at 20°C and 30°C was
160 measured continuously using an infrared O_2 - CO_2 analyzer (LI-COR LI6262, Lincoln, NV,
161 USA). The analyzer was calibrated periodically against a precision gas mixture. Although there
162 was almost no difference between calibrations, baseline measurements were performed before
163 and after each recording. Flow rates of CO_2 – free air was maintained at 100 ml min^{-1} ± 1% by a
164 Sierra mass flow controller (Henderson, NV, USA). We used cylindrical metabolic chambers (60
165 ml) covered by metal paper. O_2 consumption was recorded during 45 minutes per individual.
166 Each record was automatically transformed by a macro program recorded in the ExpeData
167 software (Sable Systems), to (1) transform the measure from % to mlO_2 min^{-1}, taking into
168 account the flow rate and (2) to eliminate the first 5 min of recordings. For each individual, the
169 metabolic sensitivity (Q_{10}) was calculated as the ratio between metabolic rate measured at 30ºC
170 and metabolic rate measured at 20ºC.
171
172 ***Selection on thermal traits***
173 After the experiments, all frogs were put back to 20ºC for at least one month before
174 releasing them. Marked frogs were released at Carrera Pinto in April 2013 and their survival was
175 monitored on three separate recapture efforts (13th October 2013, 13th June and 9th September
176 2014). As the desert surrounds these two small ponds dispersal was not a concern.
177 The relationship between trait plasticity and survival was analyzed using a Cormack-Jolly-Seber
178 (CJS) framework in Program MARK. An overall goodness of fit test was run using U-Care to
179 ensure the data were consistent with the assumed structure of the CJS model and to obtain a
180 value for the over dispersion parameter (c-hat). The time interval between capture occasions (as
181 a fraction of 1 year and considering also the original capture event) was included in the analysis

182 to accommodate the unequal intervals. The resulting resighting and survival estimates were
183 therefore corrected to annual estimates. Survival and resighting parameters were obtained in a
184 two-stage process. First, the best-fit resighting model was identified from three candidate models
185 (constant, time dependent, and a linear trend). The fit of the three candidate resighting models
186 was compared using survival modeled as both a constant and a time-dependent rate, to ensure
187 that selection of the best-fit resighting model was not influenced by choice of survival model.
188 Once the best-fit resighting model was identified (using AICc), it was then retained for all
189 candidate models. A model selection and an information-theoretic approach (Burnham &
190 Anderson 2003) was employed to contrast the adequacy of different working hypotheses (the
191 candidate models) of selection on trait plasticity. The number of candidate models was kept to a
192 minimum to minimize the likelihood of spurious results (Burnham & Anderson 2003; Lucaks et
193 al. 2010). Body mass showed a positive relationship with CT_{Max_20} ($r_P = 0.47$) and with T_{Pref_10}
194 ($r_P = 0.24$) but was not associated with any other trait (results not shown). Therefore, we tested
195 only for a null model (i.e. neither trait under selection), a model with body mass and models with
196 directional selection for each trait separately and also for correlational selection (interaction of
197 trait combinations) in the same trait at both acclimation temperatures, which indicates plasticity.
198 Body mass was included as a covariate in the case of CT_{Max_20} and T_{Pref_10} (Table 1). All analyses
199 were performed in R version 3.1.3 employing package RMark (Laake 2013). No transformation
200 was required to meet assumptions of statistical tests. Survival in relation to each covariate was
201 obtained as the model averaged value across all candidate models weighted by individual model
202 probability (Table 1).
203
204

205 **RESULTS**

206 All measured traits including critical thermal limits (CT_{Max}, CT_{Min}), thermal preference
207 (T_{Pref}) and sensitivity of metabolic rate to temperature (Q_{10}) showed high variance among
208 individuals (Fig. 2). In addition, for all traits some individuals shifted their thermal traits to
209 higher values when acclimated to high temperatures, but other individuals showed the reverse
210 response, that is their traits shifted to lower values after acclimation at higher temperatures (Fig.
211 3).

212 Only 5 out of 28 correlations between physiological traits were statistically significant,
213 and these involved mostly critical thermal limits. In particular CT_{Max_20} was negatively correlated
214 with CT_{Min_10} (r_P = -0.57) and CT_{Max_10} (r_P = -0.41) whilst it was positively correlated with Q_{10_20}
215 (r_P = 0.26). Additionally, CT_{Max_10} was positively correlated with CT_{Min_10} (r_P = 0.31) and
216 negatively correlated with CT_{Min_20} (r_P = -0.25).

217 The overall goodness of fit measure for the CJS model indicated a moderate level of
218 over-dispersion (c-hat = 2.65, P = 0.103), however with only 3 recapture occasions it was not
219 possible to identify an alternative starting model and the basic CJS model was adopted as the
220 basis for subsequent model fitting, with unexplained over-dispersion controlled using the c-hat
221 adjustment. A constant resighting rate was the best-fit model irrespective of whether survival
222 was modeled as a constant or time dependent rate (Table 1). Consequently, the constant rate-
223 resighting model was retained for subsequent modeling of survival. The model selection
224 procedure indicated that from the 13 candidate models tested, there was not a single best-fit one
225 (Table 1). In particular, the null model was the most supported (Akaike weight of 0.220), whilst
226 models including only directional selection on single traits still had some support, with a
227 cumulative Akaike weight of almost 60% (Table 1). Models including correlational selection

228 (i.e. plasticity) showed rather weak empirical support (Table 1). Overall, survival decreased as
229 values of most of the traits increased in both, warm and cold acclimated conditions (Table 2,
230 Figure 4).
231
232 **DISCUSSION**
233 To understand how organisms adapt to highly fluctuating environments and whether they will be
234 able to adaptively respond to current climate change, we need to evaluate whether selection in
235 nature targets plasticity itself. Populations inhabiting highly seasonal environments that also
236 experience daily extreme temperatures, provide excellent opportunities to test predictions of the
237 fitness consequences of such thermal variation on the plasticity of critical thermal limits and
238 preferences. Here, to the best of our knowledge for the first time, we studied natural selection on
239 thermal acclimation capacity of performance (CT_{Max} and CT_{Min}), metabolism (Q_{10}) and
240 behaviour (T_{Pref}). Our results indicate that thermal acclimation in this population is not being
241 targeted by directional selection, although there might be signals of selection on individual traits.
242 In part, the relatively weak evidence for natural selection on this system might be a consequence
243 of the small sample size we used (N = 83), the few recaptures we carried out (n = 3) and the
244 relatively high value of c-hat in the analyses, which penalizes models on the basis of parameter
245 number. This prevented us not only from evaluating more complex models (i.e. non linear
246 selection) but also resulted in estimates of directional selection with rather large SEs and
247 therefore with 95% confidence intervals that contained the zero in all cases.
248 Some theoretical models of thermal adaptation across heterogeneous environments (e.g.,
249 climate variability hypothesis, generalist-specialist models) suggest that temporal environmental
250 heterogeneity selects for more broadly adapted individuals (Lynch and Gabriel, 1987; Gilchrist

251 1995), favoring increased plasticity particularly in thermal tolerance traits (Gunderson &
252 Stillman 2015). Based on these models we predicted that the high seasonality should select for
253 high plasticity in thermal traits and therefore, the plasticity itself should currently be under
254 directional selection. Our prediction turned out to be incorrect as models including plasticity
255 showed relatively weak support.

256 Frogs of *P. tahul* in the Atacama Desert, the northernmost population of this species, are
257 exposed to large daily and seasonal oscillations in environmental temperatures. The ratio
258 between daily and annual thermal ranges (O'Donnell & Ignizio 2012) experienced by this
259 extreme population (0.65) is ca. 15% higher than that of a population 2,000 km south (0.52),
260 which experiences narrower daily environmental temperatures at the center of the species'
261 distribution (Barria & Bacigalupe 2017). This means that the studied population experiences a
262 daily variation that is almost 65% of its seasonal variation. This high daily variation, in
263 combination with the fact that climate change is already changing the frequency and intensity of
264 extreme temperatures (Rahmstorf & Coumou 2011; Wang & Dillon 2014; Vasquez et al. 2017),
265 made us wonder whether selection in nature might also target thermal traits as a function of daily
266 extremes. As the cooler end of the thermal performance curve did not change trough acclimation
267 to warmer temperatures (Ruiz-Aravena et al. 2014) we expected negative directional selection on
268 CT_{min} during the cooler but not the warmer periods of the year. Our results are in agreement with
269 the trend specified by this prediction, as survival decreased as CT_{min} increased (i.e. less tolerance
270 to cold) when cold-acclimated (albeit the estimate was non-significant), which was the second
271 most supported model (Table 1).

272 Although acclimation produced an increase in the upper limits of the thermal
273 performance curve in this population (Ruiz-Aravena et al. 2014), we expected positive

directional selection on CT_{max} when warm as well as cold-acclimated if daily high extreme temperatures were frequent. Our results do not offer support for this prediction: there was a slight trend for survival to decrease as CT_{max} increased under warm as well as under cold-acclimated conditions. However, in both cases estimates were not statistically different from zero. Nevertheless, this might suggests that selection could be favouring individuals that avoid hot microhabitats, possibly by means of behavioural responses (Ruiz-Aravena et al. 2014). Indeed, behavioural thermoregulation has been proposed as one key factor that prevents an evolutionary response to selection to raising temperatures (Kearney et al. 2009; Huey et al. 2012; Buckley et al. 2015). The fact that CT_{Max_20} was negatively correlated with CT_{Min_10} indicates that individuals with higher cold tolerance might be the ones avoiding hot microhabitats, which opens very interesting questions for further research.

Regarding the sensitivity of metabolism to temperature (Q_{10}) we expected that Q_{10} not to be under directional selection. Our results are in (partial) agreement with that expectation, as the rate at which survival changed with changes in Q_{10} was very small (Fig. 4, Table 2), although the models with Q_{10} still showed some support (Table 1). Finally, we also expected no directional selection on T_{Pref} as we have previously shown that acclimation to warmer temperatures produced an increase in this trait (Ruiz-Aravena et al. 2014). Nevertheless, we found a non-significant trend showing that survival decreased, although at a very low rate, as T_{Pref} increased, which might suggest that selection favours those individuals that are able to avoid hot microhabitats.

Our results indicate a positive trend of survival with body size (although the directional selection estimate was non-significant), something that has been previously reported in the literature (Aubin-Horth et al. 2005; Iida & Fujisaki 2007; Crosby & Latta 2013; Delaney &

297 Warner 2017). This is somewhat unsurprising, given that body mass is known to be positively
298 associated with several physiological traits that enhance performance (Castellano et al. 1999;
299 Madsen & Shine 2000; Hurlbert et al. 2008; Shepherd et al. 2008; Luna et al. 2009) including
300 plasticity itself (Whitman & Ananthakrishnan 2009). Our oasis population inhabits two highly
301 isolated ponds where other anuran competitors have not been observed, but there might be a risk
302 of predation by herons (*L.D.B. personal observation*), which could explain the positive selection
303 for body size. Nevertheless, further experimental work is needed to evaluate this possibility.
304 It is important to mention that we here measured plasticity in only one life stage. Likely
305 other ecological and physiological traits are also plastic in this species, and their responses to
306 acclimation might differ, also among different life stages. However, we still consider our results
307 show a signal and provide the first evidence that phenotypic plasticity is not an actual target of
308 selection in nature, but that daily climate extremes might be selecting for higher tolerance.
309 Nevertheless, further work including multiple traits and life stages and also in other populations,
310 should help to strengthen the trends found here into further generic hypotheses to clarify the role
311 of plasticity for the viability of ectotherm populations in nature.

Acknowledgements. We thank Nadia Aubin-Horth, Wolf Blanckenhorn, Dries Bonte, Ray Huey and Michael Logan for highly valuable comments on a previous version on the manuscript. LDB wish to acknowledge the friendship and great support of Don Demetrio and Sra. Blanca at Carrera Pinto's oasis.

Data: data is available for download from the CSIRO Data Access Portal (https://data.csiro.au/dap/landingpage?pid=csiro:29733) Doi: 10.4225/08/5a9727318bd0f

Competing interests. We declare we have no competing interests

Author Contributions. L.D.B conceptualized the study, designed the experimental procedures and carried out the experiment with A.M.B., A.G.M., M.R.A. and J.D.G.E; M.T., B.S. and L.D. B. analyzed the data and L.D.B., B.S. and J.D.G. wrote the paper with input from A.M.B and M.R.A.

Funding. Leonardo Bacigalupe acknowledges funding from FONDECYT grant 1150029. Barry Sinervo was supported by a Macrosystems grant (EF-1241848) from NSF. Aura Barria and Manuel Ruiz-Aravena were supported by a CONICYT Doctoral Fellowship.

Ethics. This study did not involve endangered or protected species and was carried out in strict accordance with the recommendations in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals of the Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica de Chile (CONICYT). All experiments were conducted according to current Chilean law. The protocol was approved by the Committee on the Ethics of Animal Experiments of the Universidad Austral de Chile.

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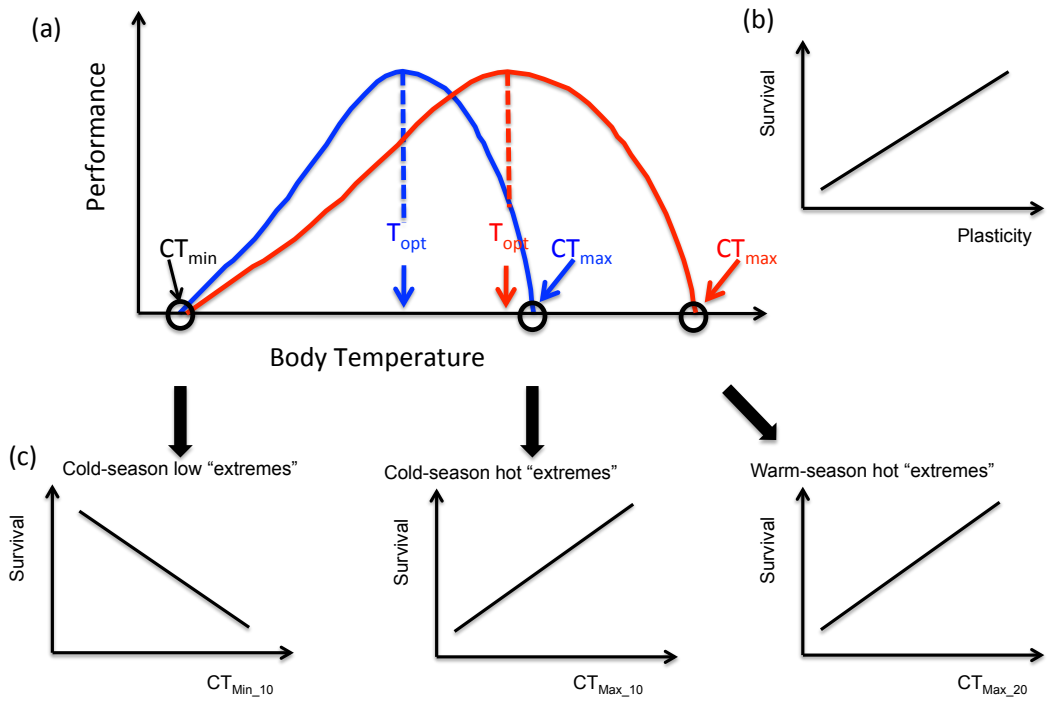
Figure 1. Graphical representation of the theory tested in this study. (a) Predictions built up from findings showing that acclimation to warmer temperatures produces an increase in the upper but not in the lower limits of the thermal performance curve (Ruiz-Aravena et al. 2014). (b) The high seasonality should selected for plasticity and therefore, plasticity of all traits should currently be under directional selection. (c) If daily low extremes are frequent, negative directional selection on CT_{Min} during the cooler periods of the year is expected (left panel). If daily high extreme temperatures are frequent, positive directional selection on CT_{Max} during the warmer periods (right panel) as well as the cooler periods of the year is expected (middle panel). We predict no directional selection on T_{Pref} and Q_{10} at both acclimation temperatures and on CT_{Min} when warm acclimated. Cold acclimation is indicated by a _10 subscript while warm acclimation is indicated by a _20 subscript.



519 **Figure 2.** Frequency distribution of CT_{Min}, T_{Pref} and CT_{Max} of the four-eyed frog when
520 acclimated to 10ºC and 20ºC.

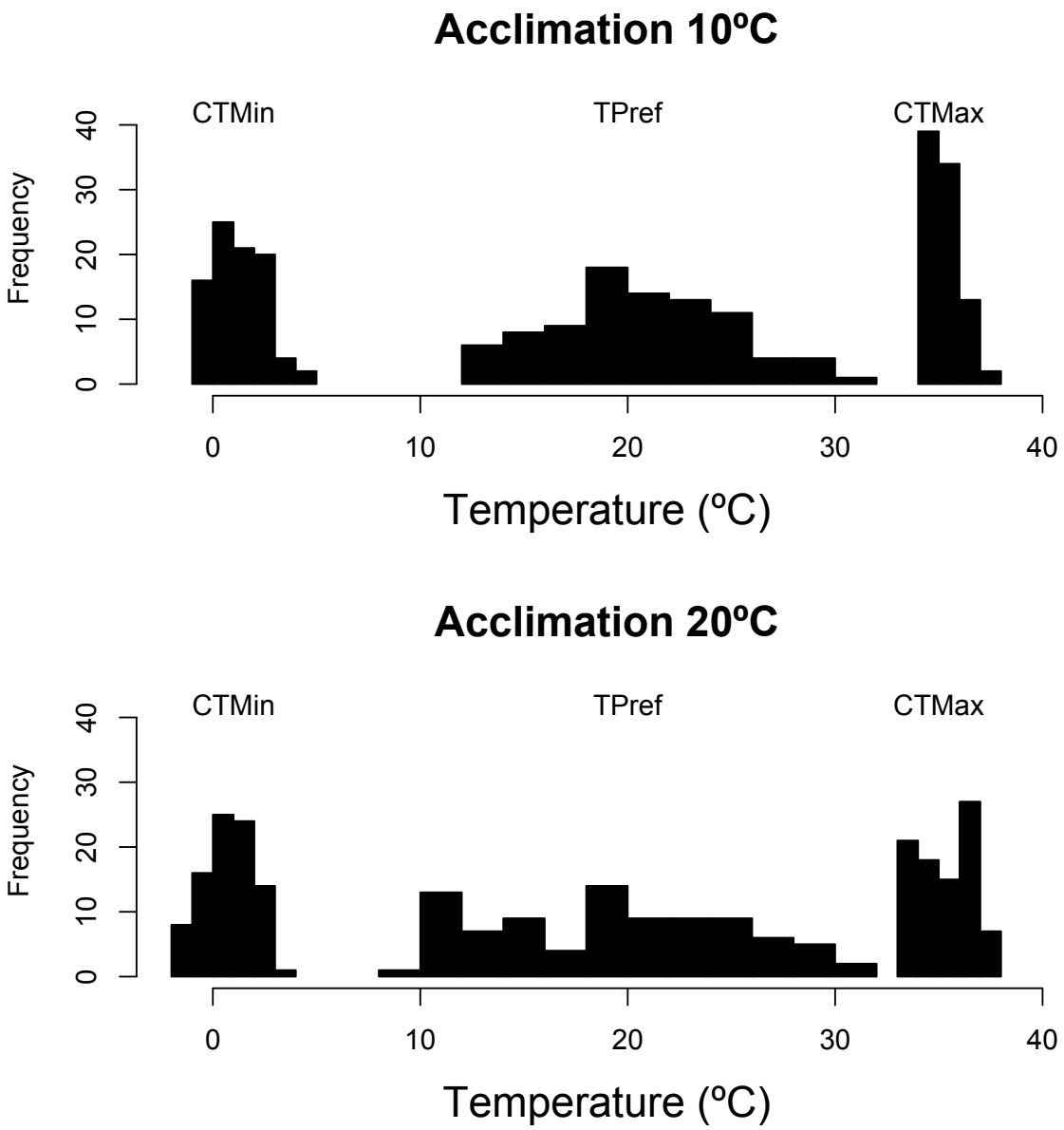


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Figure 3. Individual plasticity in CT_{Min}, T_{Pref}, CT_{Max} and Q_{10} in response to 10 and 20ºC acclimation treatments. Each line represents the individual value of the given trait at each acclimation temperature. For CT_{Min} and CT_{Max} the width of the line is directly proportional to the number of individuals that showed that specific response.

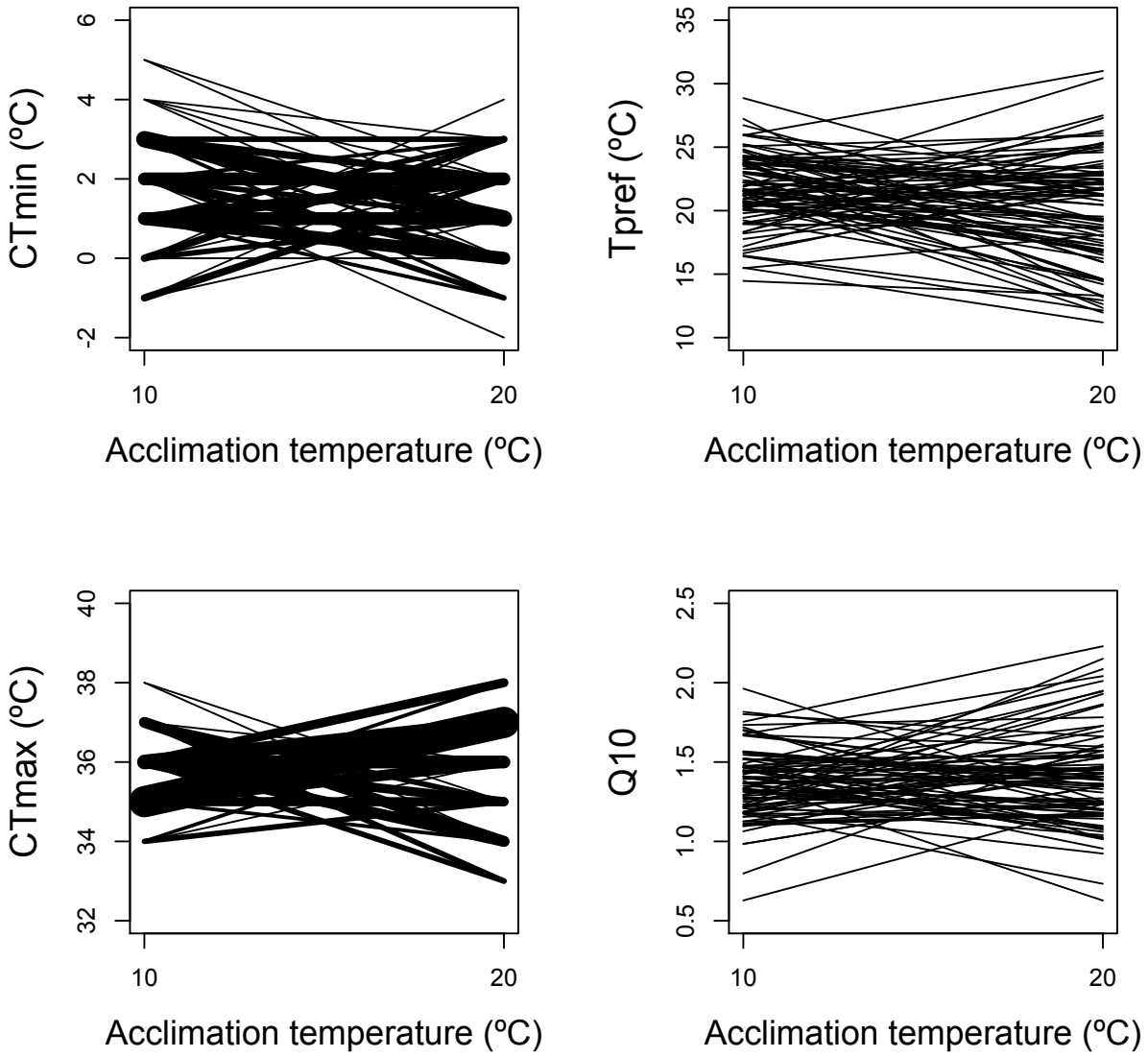


Figure 4. Directional survival selection on various thermal traits sorted by model probabilities. *w*: Akaike weights of the model.

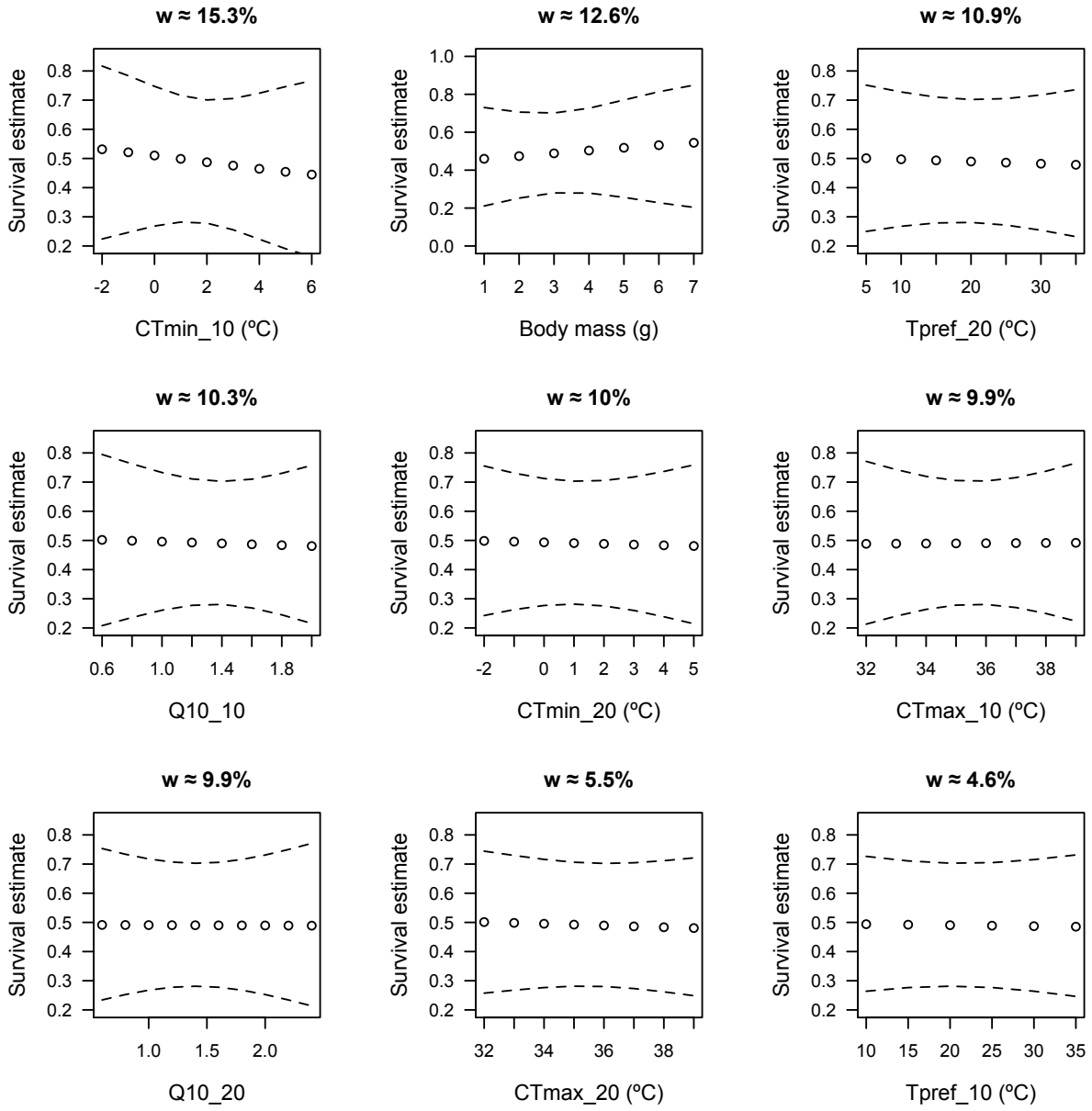


Table 1. Candidate models ordered accordingly to their Akaike weights. Single term models represent directional selection (e.g. CT_{Max}) and correlational selection represents plasticity (e.g. $CT_{Max_10} * CT_{Max_20}$). CT_{Min} = minimum critical temperature; CT_{Max} = maximum critical temperature; T_{Pref} = preferred temperature; Q_{10} = thermal sensitivity of metabolism; MB = body mass. Cold acclimated is indicated by a _10 subscript while warm acclimated is indicated by a _20 subscript.

Models		K	AICc	ΔAICc	w_i
1	Null model	2	130.17	0	0.220
2	CT_{Min_10}	3	131.40	1.23	0.119
3	MB	3	131.78	1.61	0.098
4	T_{Pref_20}	3	132.08	1.90	0.085
5	Q_{10_10}	3	132.18	2.01	0.081
6	CT_{Min_20}	3	132.25	2.08	0.078
7	CT_{Max_10}	3	132.26	2.08	0.078
8	Q_{10_20}	3	132.26	2.09	0.077
9	$CT_{Min_10} + CT_{Min_20} + CT_{Min_10} * CT_{Min_20}$	5	133.38	3.21	0.044
10	$MB + CT_{Max_20}$	4	133.44	3.27	0.043
11	$MB + T_{Pref_10}$	4	133.82	3.64	0.036
12	$Q_{10_10} + Q_{10_20} + Q_{10_10} * Q_{10_20}$	5	134.17	4.00	0.030
13	$MB + T_{Pref_10} + T_{Pref_20} + T_{Pref_10} * T_{Pref_20}$	6	137.16	6.99	0.007
14	$MB + CT_{Max_10} + CT_{Max_20} + CT_{Max_10} * CT_{Max_20}$	6	137.62	7.45	0.005

K = number of parameters.
AICc: AIC values corrected for small sample sizes.
w_i: Akaike weights.

Table 2. Directional selection estimates from single terms models with their standard errors (SE) and 95% confidence intervals (95% CI). CT_{Min} = minimum critical temperature; CT_{Max} = maximum critical temperature; T_{Pref} = preferred temperature; Q_{10} = thermal sensitivity of metabolism; MB = body mass. Cold acclimation is indicated by a _10 subscript while warm acclimation is indicated by a _20 subscript.

Trait	Estimate	SE	95% CI
MB	0.209	0.212	-0.206 – 0.625
CT_{Min_10}	-0.248	0.187	-0.616 – 0.119
CT_{Min_20}	-0.030	0.181	-0.384 – 0.324
T_{Pref_10}	-0.025	0.059	-0.140 – 0.090
T_{Pref_20}	-0.026	0.042	-0.109 – 0.056
CT_{Max_10}	0.026	0.257	-0.477 – 0.530
CT_{Max_20}	-0.192	0.195	-0.575 – 0.191
Q_{10_10}	-0.475	1.140	-2.709 – 1.759
Q_{10_20}	-0.048	0.795	-1.607 – 1.510

Figure 1. Graphical representation of the predictions tested in this study. (a) Predictions built up from findings showing that acclimation to warmer temperatures produces an increase in the upper but not in the lower limits of the thermal performance curve (Ruiz-Aravena et al. 2014). (b) The high seasonality should have selected for plasticity and therefore, plasticity of all traits should not currently be under directional selection. (c) If daily low extremes are frequent, we expect negative directional selection on CT_{Min} during the cooler periods of the year (left panel). If daily high extreme temperatures are frequent, we expect positive directional selection on CT_{Max} during the warmer periods (right panel) as well as the cooler periods of the year (middle panel). We predict no directional selection on T_{Pref} and Q_{10} at both acclimation temperatures and on CT_{Min} when warm acclimated. Cold acclimated is indicated by a _10 subscript while warm acclimated is indicated by a _20 subscript.

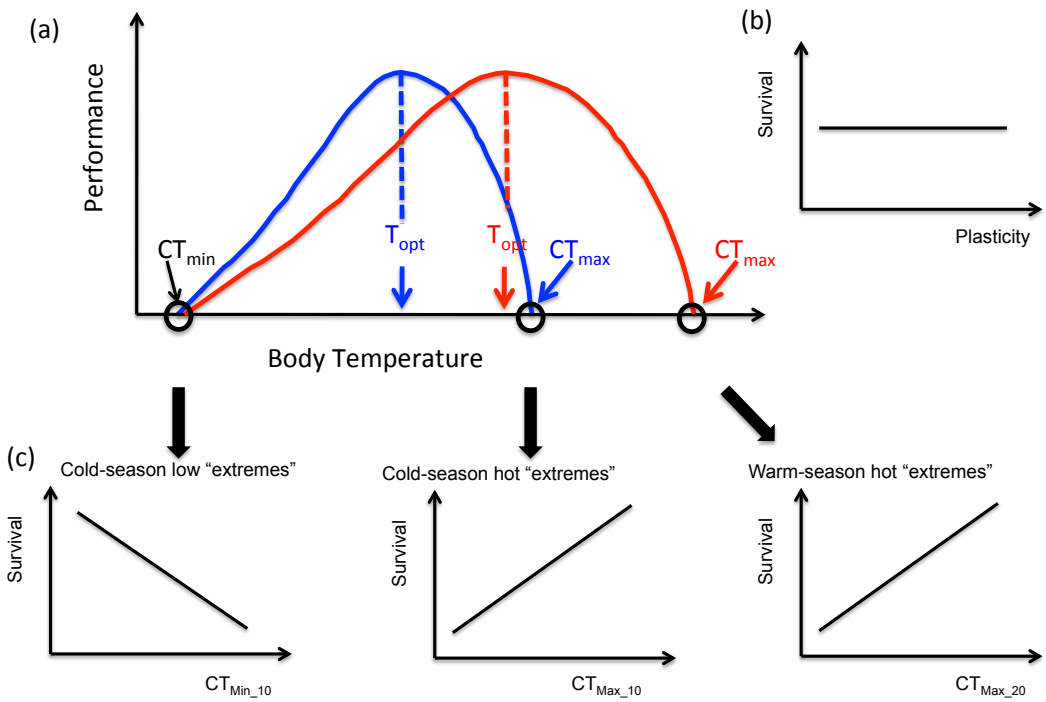


Figure 2. Frequency distribution of CT_{Min}, T_{Pref} and CT_{Max} of the four-eyed frog when acclimated to 10ºC and 20ºC.

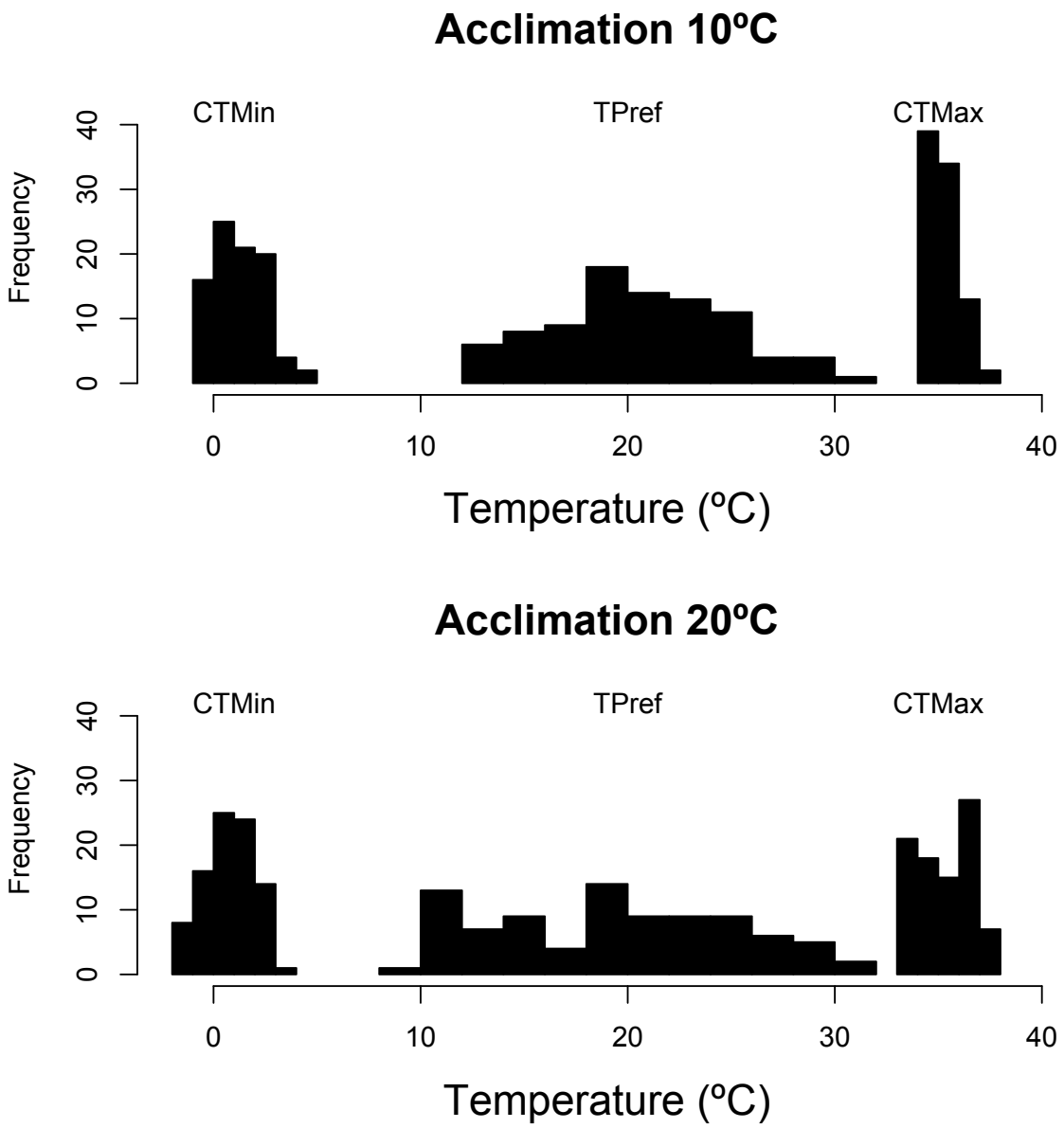


Figure 3. Individual plasticity in CT_{Min}, T_{Pref}, CT_{Max} and Q_{10} to 10 and 20ºC acclimation treatments. Each line represents the individual value of the specific traits at each temperature. For CT_{Min} and CT_{Max} the width of the line is directly proportional to the number of individuals that showed that specific response.

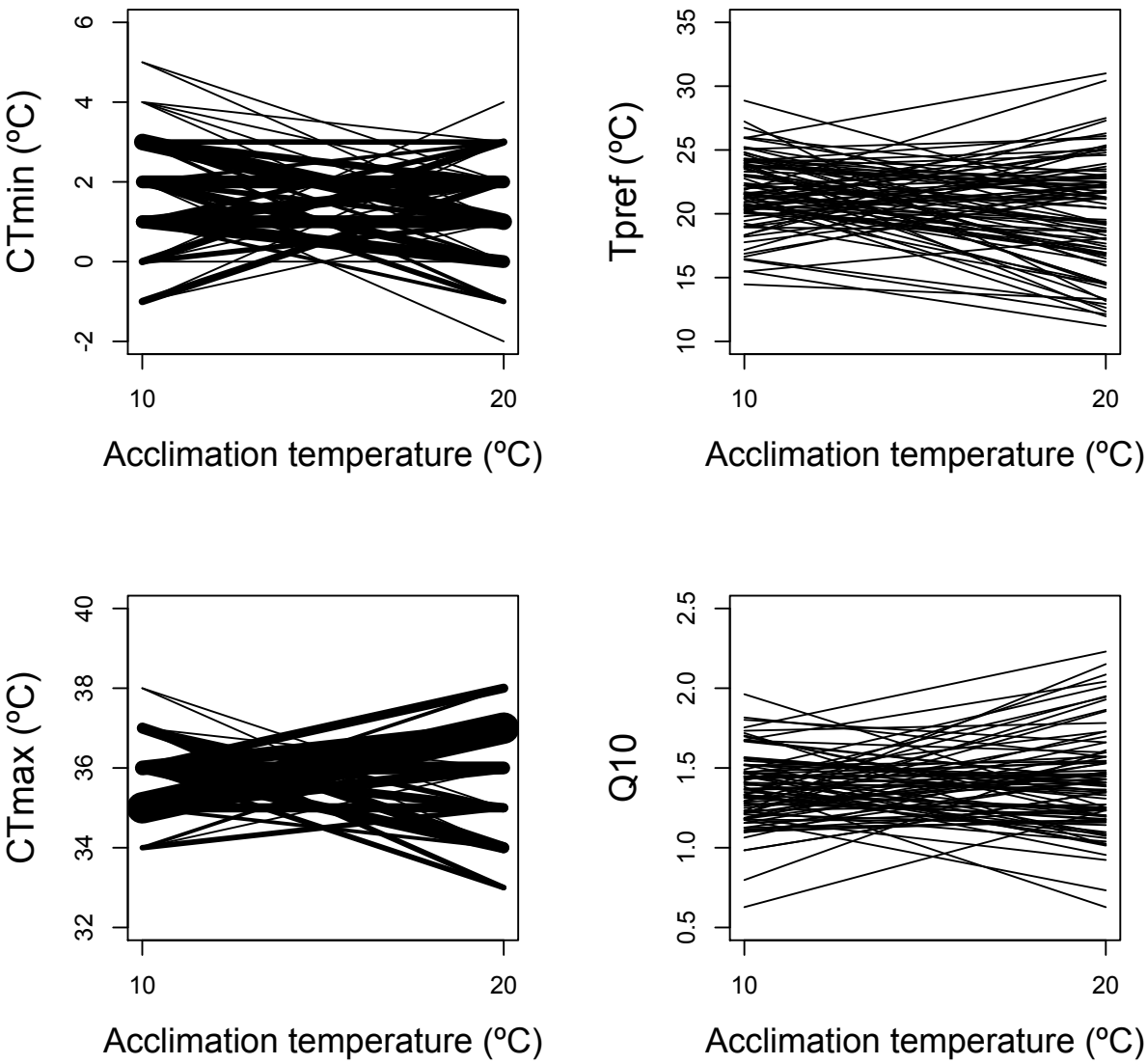
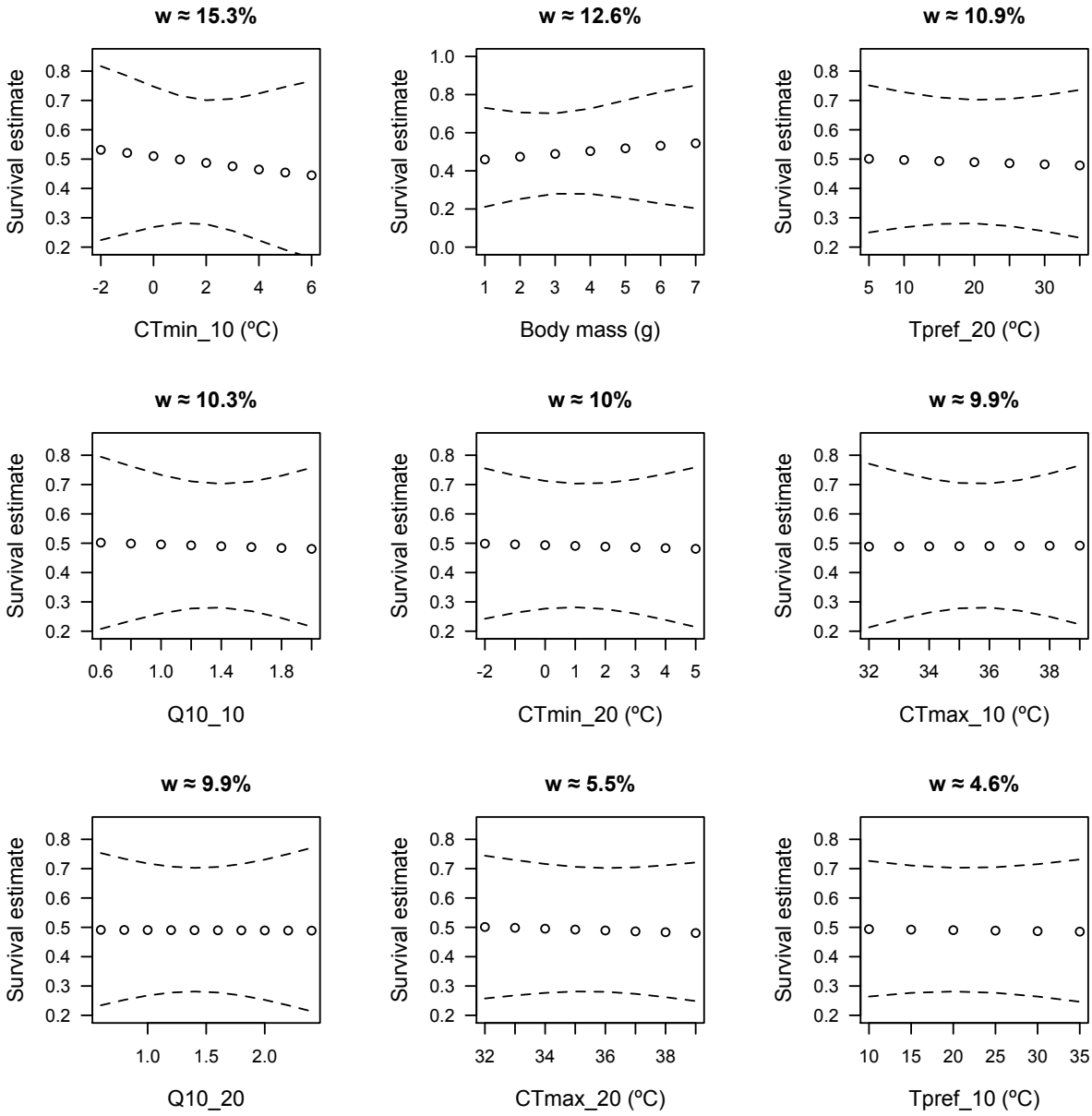


Figure 4. Survival estimates of simple directional selection sorted by model probabilities.

w: Akaike weights of the model.