

# 1 Genetic variance in fitness and its cross-sex covariance 2 predict adaptation during experimental evolution.

**Short running title:** Adaptive potential to new environments

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9

## 10 **Abstract**

11 In presence of rapid environmental changes, it is of particular importance to assess the adaptive potential of  
12 populations, which is mostly determined by the additive genetic variation ( $V_A$ ) in fitness. In this study we used  
13 *Tribolium castaneum* (red flour beetles) to investigate its adaptive potential in three new environmental  
14 conditions (Dry, Hot, Hot-Dry). We tested for potential constraints that might limit adaptation, including  
15 negative genetic covariance between female and male fitness. Based on  $V_A$  estimates for fitness, we expected  
16 the highest relative fitness increase in the most stressful condition Hot-Dry and similar increases in single  
17 stress conditions Dry and Hot. High adaptive potential in females in Hot was reduced by a negative covariance  
18 with male fitness. We tested adaptation to the three conditions after 20 generations of experimental evolution  
19 and found that observed adaptation mainly matched our predictions. Given that body size is commonly used  
20 as a proxy for fitness, we also tested how this trait and its genetic variance (including non-additive genetic  
21 variance) were impacted by environmental stress. In both traits, variances were sex and condition dependent,  
22 but they differed in their variance composition, cross-sex and cross-environment genetic covariances, as well  
23 as in the environmental impact on  $V_A$ .

24

25 **Keywords:** fundamental theorem of natural selection, non-additive genetic effects, heritability, quantitative  
26 genetics, evolvability

27

## 28 **Introduction**

29 Environmental changes pose a substantial risk of extinction to many organisms (Thomas et al. 2004; Parmesan  
30 2006). Predicting whether a population is able to persist is therefore of crucial importance. Species may adapt  
31 via plastic or genetic changes. Plastic changes, e.g. physiological or behavioural adjustments, allow individuals  
32 to cope with stressful conditions (Charmantier et al. 2008). However, plastic responses are often costly and  
33 thus likely limited (Houle 1992; DeWitt et al. 1998; de Jong 2005; Valladares et al. 2007; Pfennig et al. 2010;  
34 Snell-Rood et al. 2010; Sokolova et al. 2012). It is also not clear whether they are sufficient to compensate  
35 negative effects of environmental changes (Duputié et al. 2015; Arnold et al. 2019). Instead, fast  
36 environmental shifts may require rapid adaptation by genetic evolution on short time scales. In this case, the  
37 standing genetic variation already present in the population is of particular importance (Kellermann et al.  
38 2006; Bell and Gonzalez 2009). Adaptive evolution proceeds through different individual contributions to the  
39 next generation, i.e. differences in their fitness. Importantly, this variation in individual fitness has to be at  
40 least partly due to some underlying genetic variation in order to change the genetic composition of a  
41 population. Usually, only variance due to additive genetic effects ( $V_A$ ) is considered since additive effects are  
42 inherited from parents to offspring and determine the response to selection.  $V_A$  of relative fitness gives the  
43 expected increase of fitness in the next generation (Fisher 1930; Price 1972; Falconer and MacKay 1996). Thus,  
44 the existence of  $V_A$  in fitness is a prerequisite for adaptation and can be used as an overall estimate of a  
45 population's capacity to adapt, or its evolvability (Houle 1992; Hansen et al. 2011; Shaw and Shaw 2014).

46

47 A common and intuitive expectation is that  $V_A$  in fitness should be low because selection depletes genetic  
48 variation in adapted populations. Accordingly, it was found that heritability ( $h^2$ , proportion of  $V_A$  in total

49 variance  $V_p$ ) was lower in traits more closely associated with fitness (Mousseau and Roff 1987; Kruuk et al.  
50 2000; Merilä and Sheldon 2000; Teplitsky et al. 2009; Wheelwright et al. 2014). However,  $h^2$  is not ideal for  
51 estimating  $V_A$  in fitness and the evolutionary potential of a population (Hansen et al. 2011; Wheelwright et al.  
52 2014; Morrissey and Bonnet 2019) since low  $h^2$  is often due to higher environmental variance (Schluter et al.  
53 1991; Merilä and Sheldon 1999). Many populations may also not be at an evolutionary equilibrium (Shaw and  
54 Shaw 2014) in environments that have been recently changed by human impacts (Fugère and Hendry 2018).  
55 Estimates of  $V_A$  in fitness are scarce, especially in natural populations and tend to show large heterogeneity in  
56 the estimates of  $V_A$  for lifetime fitness (e.g., in vertebrate populations: Kruuk *et al.*, 2000; Merilä & Sheldon,  
57 2000; McCleery *et al.*, 2004; McFarlane *et al.*, 2014). Although it is predicted that some species might not have  
58 the evolutionary potential to adapt to shifting environmental conditions (Etterson and Shaw 2001), some  
59 studies found substantial amounts of  $V_A$  in fitness in wild populations. Similarly, laboratory studies have  
60 reported significant  $V_A$  for fitness related traits in *D. melanogaster* (Gardner et al. 2005; Fry 2008; Long et al.  
61 2009).

62  
63 Despite existing  $V_A$  in fitness traits, evolution to new conditions can be constrained by antagonistic pleiotropy if  
64 alleles influence several fitness components but with opposite effects. This leads to trade-offs since one  
65 component cannot be optimized without reducing the other, e.g. fecundity and life length (Roff 2000). Another  
66 example of trade-offs is sexual antagonism (Foerster et al. 2007; Bonduriansky and Chenoweth 2009; Delcourt  
67 et al. 2009; Kirkpatrick 2009; Poissant et al. 2010; Calsbeek et al. 2015; Connallon and Hall 2016). Fitness  
68 optima might often differ between males and females. However, sharing a great part of their genome  
69 constrains independent evolution and limits adaptation when selection in the two sexes is opposite to the  
70 genetic correlation. Such a constraint should be revealed by negative genetic correlations between male and  
71 female fitness. Similar constraints may appear when adaptation to certain environmental conditions (e.g.,  
72 elevated temperature) trades-off with adaptation to other conditions. Environmental changes often include

73 simultaneous changes in several variables. For short-term stress exposure, effects like cross-tolerance and  
74 hardening (i.e., resistance to one stress develops after exposure to another stress) were observed, and it is  
75 known that some stress responses rely on the same physiological mechanisms (Bubliy et al. 2012).  
76 Evolutionary adaptation to different stressors involving the same pathways may thus lead to correlated  
77 resistance to another stressor (Bubliy and Loeschcke 2005; Sikkink et al. 2015). However, examples of local  
78 adaptation suggest that selection may often favour different genotypes in different conditions (Hereford  
79 2009). Immediately after exposure to an environmental change, genetic correlations between fitness in  
80 different conditions can inform us to what extent the genetic basis of fitness is shared between environments.  
81 If we observe negative genetic covariances between fitness in different conditions, it is likely that alleles  
82 providing fitness benefits in one condition become detrimental in another. Adaptation when both stress  
83 factors are experienced at the same time can then be limited.

84  
85 Changes in environmental conditions are also well known to affect genetic variances (Sgrò and Hoffmann 1998;  
86 Hoffmann and Merilä 1999; Rowiński and Rogell 2017), and covariances (Simons and Roff 1996; Sgrò and  
87 Hoffmann 2004; Wood and Brodie 2015), including cross-sex genetic covariance (Delcourt et al. 2009; Poissant  
88 et al. 2010; Punzalan et al. 2014). This can have substantial implications for evolutionary potential (Wilson et  
89 al. 2006; Husby et al. 2011), since the environmental shift that imposes a risk of extinction can at the same  
90 time either increase  $V_A$  for fitness (Shaw and Shaw, 2014) or reduce the evolutionary potential to adapt to this  
91 new condition (Wood and Brodie 2016). To fully understand the impact of environmental change on a  
92 population's persistence it is therefore essential to know how genetic variances change in different  
93 environments and to identify potential constraints.

94  
95 The fundamental importance of  $V_A$  of fitness for predicting contemporary evolution (Shaw and Etterson 2012;  
96 Hendry et al. 2018) and recent statistical advances in quantitative genetics have fostered great interest in  
97 estimating the adaptive capacity of wild populations (Charmantier et al. 2014). Even more so with the recent

98 progress in using genomic markers to infer genetic resemblance among individuals (Gienapp et al. 2017;  
99 Perrier et al. 2018). These advances open up new perspectives for applications of classical quantitative genetic  
100 and genomic tools in wild populations, addressing important questions regarding populations' persistence  
101 under environmental change (Waldvogel et al. 2020). However, so far relatively little information exists about  
102 the predictive value of  $V_A$  for fitness over several generations. In our study, we addressed this question by  
103 combining classical quantitative genetics with experimental evolution in the model organism *Tribolium*  
104 *castaneum*. We used a two-generation half-sib/full-sib breeding design to estimate genetic variances of fitness  
105 traits in four different conditions (control, dry, hot and hot-dry) representing two often co-occurring stressors,  
106 heat and drought. We measured offspring number as estimate of fitness in the F1 generation, and body size in  
107 the F2 generation, as an additional trait, often use as fitness proxy. We evaluated adaptation to heat, drought  
108 and their combination after 20 generations of experimental evolution. Thus, our experimental setup allowed  
109 us to explore many different facets of adaptation and to ask: how the adaptive potential changes under  
110 stressful conditions, whether trade-offs between female and male fitness can constrain adaptation, and by  
111 testing for genotype-by-environment interactions (G x E,) to which extent resistance to different stressors  
112 shares a common genetic basis. Having obtained such estimates in the founder populations, we could then  
113 gain deeper insights into the process of adaptation. Linking experimental evolution and classical quantitative  
114 genetics proved to be a powerful approach to evaluate the predictive power of genetic variance for fitness,  
115 and obtain a better understanding of the observed adaptation after 20 generations in new environments.

116

## 117 **Material and Methods**

### 118 *Animal rearing and stress treatments*

119 We used the *Tribolium castaneum* Cro1 strain (Milutinović et al. 2013), an outbred lab strain collected from a  
120 wild population in 2010, kept at high population size (>10,000) and adapted to lab standard conditions (33°C,  
121 70% relative humidity) for more than 30 generations. Beetles were kept in 24h darkness on organic wheat  
122 flour mixed with 10% organic baker's yeast. We sterilized the flour and yeast by heating them for 12h at 80°C  
123 before use. We measured fitness as well as size in control (=standard) conditions and three stress treatments

124 with increased temperature or/and decreased humidity. The conditions in the treatments were: Hot: 37°C and  
125 70% relative humidity, Dry: 33°C and 30% r. h., Hot-Dry: 37°C and 30% r. h.

126 In order to be able to estimate genetic variances, we applied a split-brood paternal half-sib breeding design.  
127 We produced 147 half-sib families by mating virgin males to three virgin females (Figure S1A). Half- as well as  
128 full-sib families were split across all conditions (Figure S1A). Male and female offspring (four females and two  
129 males per full-sib family and condition) were separated at the pupal stage and transferred to 10 mL tubes with  
130 1 g of medium and remained there until they were used for the fitness assay eight weeks later.

131

### 132 *Fitness Assay and producing double first cousins*

133 To estimate fitness, we mated each virgin male with two unrelated virgin females from the same condition in  
134 15mL tube with 1g medium. The male was removed after 24h and females transferred into two separate  
135 tubes. Females were removed from the tubes after one week of egg laying, and 9g medium was added to  
136 provide food for the developing offspring. After five weeks the number of adult offspring was counted. While  
137 we conducted the matings for the fitness assay, we followed a specific crossing design and always crossed two  
138 pairs of full-sib families (Figure S1B). Individuals resulting from these crosses (F2) were double first cousins.

139

140

### 141 *Size*

142 Body size was measured in the F2, i.e. in the offspring of beetles that were used for the fitness assay. To  
143 estimate body size, we used the centroid size of the abdominal segment IV as proxy for total size since it can  
144 be measured more accurately than dry weight in very small insects and shows a high correlation with body  
145 mass (Wickman and Karlsson 1989; Honěk 1993). We decided to use size of the abdominal segment because  
146 we could measure it with higher accuracy than the total size, which strongly depends on whether an individual  
147 is in perfectly stretched position. The size of other parts of the body show a high correlation with this segment  
148 (Supplemental Figure S3). Dead beetles were fixed with a double-faced Scotch tape dorsally on a microscope  
149 slide. Sex was determined based on the sex patches of males at the inside of the femur. After sexing, all legs of

150 the beetles were removed. Slides with single specimens were placed under a Wild M8 Heerbrugg M8  
151 dissection microscope with a transmitted light stand. Two further light sources from above were installed for  
152 better illumination. Images were captured with a 25x magnification using a Leica DFC495 digital camera  
153 connected to a PC running the Microscope imaging software LAS v4.6.2. File utility program “tpsUtil” was used  
154 to build tps files from the images and tpsdig2 for setting the landmarks (see  
155 <http://life.bio.sunysb.edu/ee/rohlf/software.html> for program information). To estimate beetle size, four  
156 landmarks were set on the ventral part of the abdominal IV  
157 ([https://figshare.com/articles/\\_Morphology\\_of\\_the\\_red\\_flour\\_beetle\\_Tribolium\\_castaneum\\_/759706/1](https://figshare.com/articles/_Morphology_of_the_red_flour_beetle_Tribolium_castaneum_/759706/1)). The  
158 centroid size was calculated using the free software Past 3.14 (for information see:  
159 <http://folk.uio.no/ohammer/past/>).

#### 160 *Effects of condition on fitness and size*

161 Statistical analysis was conducted in R version 3.4.2 (R Core Team 2017). We used linear mixed models as  
162 implemented in the Rpackage *lme4* 1.1-17 (Bates et al. 2015) to explore the effects of treatments on fitness  
163 and size. For fitness analysis we included treatment and batch (time of fitness assay) as fixed effects and  
164 mother identity as random effect to account for non-independence since some of our measured individuals  
165 were full-sibs. For analysing size we included batch (individuals that grow up at the same time), treatment and  
166 sex as well as their interaction as fixed effects and mother identity as random effect. Significance and  
167 confidence intervals were obtained using the Rpackages *lsmeans* 2.27-62 (Lenth 2016) and *lmertest* 3.0-1  
168 (Kuznetsova et al. 2017).

169

170

171

#### 172 *Adaptation*

173 We used ten replicate lines per condition originating from the same ancestral population (same as before,  
174 Cro1) and let them adapt for 20 generations (Supplemental Figure S2). Each new generation was set up by  
175 randomly selecting 120 pupae and placing them into a new vial with 70g medium. One selection line in Dry

176 became extinct. Adult beetles of generation 20 from all selection lines were transferred to control conditions,  
177 in which they stayed for one week to mate and lay eggs. After removal of the adults, we waited until their  
178 offspring had reached the pupal stage and separated males and females. These individuals (generation 21)  
179 developed completely in control conditions. When they had reached the adult stage, each virgin male was  
180 mated with a virgin female of the same selection line and their offspring was transferred to all four conditions  
181 in the egg stage, resulting in full-sib families split across all conditions (Figure S2). As soon as these offspring  
182 (generation 22) had reached the pupal stage, males and females were separated. To compare fitness of  
183 different selection lines and test for adaptation, a virgin male and a virgin female of the same selection line in  
184 the same condition, but from different families were mated and the number of adult offspring produced within  
185 four days of mating and egg laying was used as a fitness estimate. To test for adaptation, we compared  
186 whether offspring number of selection lines in their native condition was significantly higher compared to non-  
187 adapted control lines. First, we analysed each condition separately. We used linear mixed models including  
188 selection regime as fixed effect and lines and families nested within lines as random effects using the  
189 Rpackage *lme4* (Bates et al. 2015). We were further interested to test for correlated responses, i.e. whether  
190 adaptation to a certain stress treatment could increase fitness in another. For this we run one analysis using  
191 the complete data set. Selection regime, conditions, and their interaction were used as fixed effects, lines,  
192 families nested within lines, and line-treatment interaction as random effects. Reported effect sizes and  
193 standard errors were obtained from the summary output of the model. p-values and confidence intervals were  
194 computed with the Rpackages *Imertest* (Kuznetsova et al. 2017) and *lsmeans* (Lenth 2016). Statistical analyses  
195 were conducted in R (R Core Team 2017). Model diagnostic plots are shown in supplemental Figure S6 and the  
196 complete results in Table S2.

197

### 198 **Quantitative genetic analyses**

199 We estimated genetic variances, covariances and correlations using an animal model and restricted maximum  
200 likelihood estimation as implemented in Asreml version 3.0 (Gilmour et al. 2009). The animal model is a linear  
201 mixed effect model that uses all known relationships from a pedigree as random effect to partition observed



202 variance into additive genetic variance and other sources of variance (Kruuk 2004). Non-additive genetic  
203 relationship matrices were created with the Rpackage *nadiv* 2.16.0.0 (Wolak 2012). All models were run in R by  
204 Asreml-R (Butler et al. 2009). All models reached convergence.

205

#### 206 *Fitness*

207 First, we ran a series of univariate models for each condition separately with offspring number as response  
208 variable, batch (samples where fitness assay was started on the same day) as fixed effect, additive genetic  
209 effects of females and additive genetic effects of males as random effects. Maternal identity (mother of  
210 female) was included as random effect to account for resemblance of full-sibs due to maternal, common  
211 environment or non-additive genetic effects. Significance of random effects was determined by likelihood ratio  
212 tests, testing whether excluding a certain random effect resulted in a significantly worse model. Reported P-  
213 values are one-tailed since we tested whether a certain variance is different from zero and variances cannot  
214 become negative (Wilson et al. 2010). Although count data, it can be analysed assuming a Gaussian  
215 distribution when distribution converges towards a normal distribution (de Villemereuil 2018). Distribution of  
216 offspring numbers are shown in Figure S4. Model diagnostic plots and more details are given in the  
217 Supplement (Figure S5). For estimating cross-sex genetic correlation we used the same univariate models but  
218 included a covariance between female and male additive genetic effects. Maternal effects were removed in  
219 subsequent analyses since they were very small and non-significant. Studies so far used bivariate models to  
220 investigate cross-sex genetic correlations (Brommer et al. 2007; Foerster et al. 2007; McFarlane et al. 2014;  
221 Punzalan et al. 2014; Wolak et al. 2018). In case of fitness this could be problematic, because the same  
222 observation (number of adult offspring resulting from a mating) would be used twice. Using univariate models  
223 including additive genetic effects of females and males avoids pseudoreplication. Significance of genetic  
224 correlations was determined by two-tailed likelihood ratio tests comparing a model including correlations to a  
225 model with correlations set to zero. In order to test for genotype-by-sex interaction (G x S), which indicates  
226 that a genotype is differently expressed in males and females, we compared the model to a constrained model

227 with genetic correlation fixed to one. To examine whether additive genetic effects of females and males were  
228 different, we tested whether the unconstrained model was significantly better than a model with  $V_A$  of females  
229 and  $V_A$  of males forced to be equal within each condition.

230 For estimating cross-condition genetic covariances and correlations we used bivariate models with fitness in  
231 two conditions as response, batch as fixed and additive genetic effects of females and males as random effects.  
232 Since each individual was only measured in one condition, residual covariance was set to zero. Significance of  
233 correlation was assessed by comparing to a model with correlation fixed to zero using two-tailed likelihood  
234 ratio tests. Genetic correlations between traits measured in different environments that are significantly less  
235 than unity, indicate a G x E interactions (Kruuk 2004; Charmantier and Garant 2005). Comparison with a model  
236 with correlation fixed to one was used to test for G x E (Wilson et al. 2010). In all bivariate models, covariance  
237 between male effects was set to zero, because male effects were very small and not significant in some  
238 conditions and hence it was not meaningful to estimate covariances.

239 To allow comparisons across different conditions, we calculated  $h^2$  and  $CV_A$  ( $CV_A$  is the square root of  $V_A$  divided  
240 by the phenotypic mean of the trait, multiplied by 100) of fitness for males and females in each condition.  $I_A$  ( $V_A$   
241 divided by trait mean squared, multiplied by 100 (Houle 1992)) was calculated as an estimate for the  
242 proportional change after one generation. Standard errors of  $CV_A$  and  $I_A$  were computed as described in Garcia-  
243 Gonzalez *et al.*, (2012).

244 To assess whether genetic variances were significantly affected by environmental change, we used a  
245 multivariate model with fitness in each condition as separate response variable. Since fitness between  
246 conditions differed in mean and variance, we standardized data. We applied two different standardizations: 1)  
247 mean standardized (i.e. relative fitness) and 2) dividing by the standard deviation (sd) to have a variance of  
248 one. We then tested whether constraining the multivariate model and forcing  $V_A$  of standardized fitness to be  
249 equal in all conditions resulted in a significantly worse model. If the constrained models are worse, we can  
250 conclude that mean standardized  $V_A$  ( $I_A$  of absolute numbers), or sd standardized  $V_A$  ( $h^2$  of absolute numbers)  
251 are significantly influenced by the environment. Similarly, we tested whether genetic cross-condition  
252 correlations were different. We used a multivariate model and constrained all pairwise cross-condition

253 correlations to be equal. We then tested if this model was significantly worse than an unconstrained model  
254 using a two-tailed likelihood-ratio test.

255

256 *Size*

257 Our crossing design during the fitness assay (reciprocal crossing of two pairs of full-sibs, see Figure S2) allowed  
258 us to estimate non-additive genetic variance ( $V_D$ ) in the following generation (F2). In a paternal half-sib  
259 breeding design these effects contribute to resemblance among full-sibs and cannot be separated from  
260 maternal or common environmental effects. In contrast, double first cousins (DFC) share non-additive genetic  
261 effects without being confounded by maternal effects or a common environment. We partitioned the  
262 observed variance for size into additive ( $V_A$ ), maternal ( $V_M$ ), non-additive ( $V_D$ ), and residual variance  $V_R$  while  
263 controlling for batch effects. Batches represent individuals that grew up at the same time, and thus accounts  
264 for variations in the medium or lab temperature. Similar to the analysis of fitness data, we first analysed each  
265 condition separately using univariate animal models with batch as fixed and maternal, additive, and non-  
266 additive genetic effects as random effects. To get sex specific estimates, we analysed male and female size  
267 separately. Genetic correlations between sexes and between conditions were assessed by bivariate models.  
268 Significance of correlations, G x E, environmental effects on  $I_A$  and  $h^2$  of size were tested in the same way as we  
269 described before.

270

271 To demonstrate how responses are affected by covariances between the sexes we used estimated variances  
272 and covariances between male and female additive genetic effects of relative fitness to predict fitness increase  
273 after one generation. We applied the multivariate breeder's equation  $\Delta z = G\beta$  (Lande 1979), where  $\Delta z$  is a  
274 vector of changes in the trait means,  $G$  the 2 x 2 genetic variance-covariance matrix for female and male  
275 relative fitness estimated in each condition, and  $\beta$  a vector of selection gradients. We used a vector of  
276 selection gradients that assumed equal selection on male and female fitness,  $\beta^T = [1, 1]$ . Total change in fitness is  
277 then the sum of fitness increase in females and in males. Alternatively, we may consider male additive genetic  
278 effects as indirect genetic effects on female reproductive output. Joint effects of direct and indirect selection

279 on evolutionary changes of a single trait can be calculated as described in Bijma & Wade (2008) (equation 14):

280  $\sigma_T^2 = \sigma_{A_D}^2 + 2(n-1)\sigma_{A_{Di}}^2 + (n-1)^2\sigma_{A_I}^2$ , where  $\sigma_T^2$  is the total heritable variance,  $\sigma_{A_D}^2$  additive genetic variance

281 for direct effects (female  $V_A$ ),  $\sigma_{A_I}^2$  additive genetic variance for indirect effects (male  $V_A$ ), and  $n$  gives the

282 number of interacting individuals (here, it equals two). In case of relative fitness, this total heritable variance is

283 equal to the predicted relative increase in fitness (Fisher 1930). Thus, considering male and female fitness as

284 two separate traits and applying the multivariate breeder's equation, or treating additive genetic effects of

285 males as indirect genetic effects on female fitness is equivalent.

286

## 287 **Results**

### 288 **Effect of treatment**

289 It was previously shown that all treatments had a highly significant effect on offspring number (Koch and

290 Guillaume 2020) with the effect of heat being stronger and the lowest offspring number when heat and

291 drought were combined. (Figure 1A). Treatments also showed a significant effect on size ( $F_{3,7710} = 76.30$ ,  $p <$

292  $2.20E-16$ , Table S1) and size decreased in the stressful conditions. Similar to offspring number, the effect of

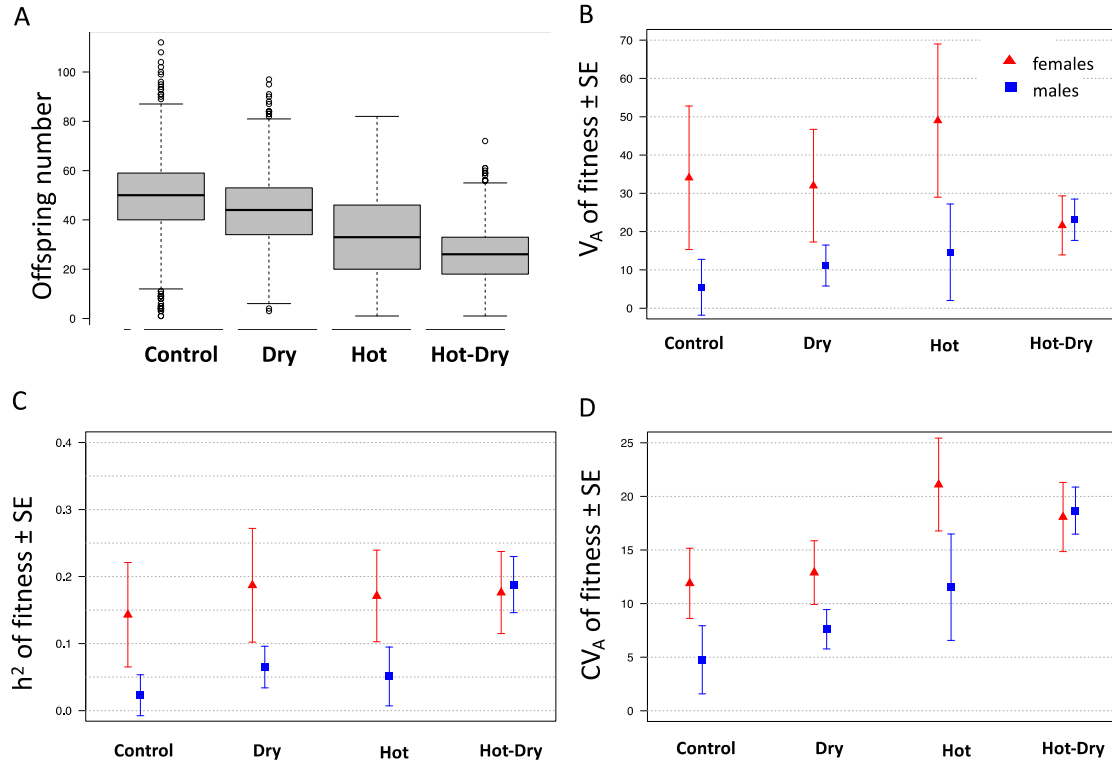
293 drought was smaller. Combining both stressors did not result in an additional decrease in size. In contrast, we

294 observed the lowest size in Hot and higher sizes in Hot-Dry (Figure 2A). The difference between males and

295 females was significant ( $F_{1,7759} = 518.19$ ,  $p < 2.20E-16$ ) with females being larger. We also detected a significant

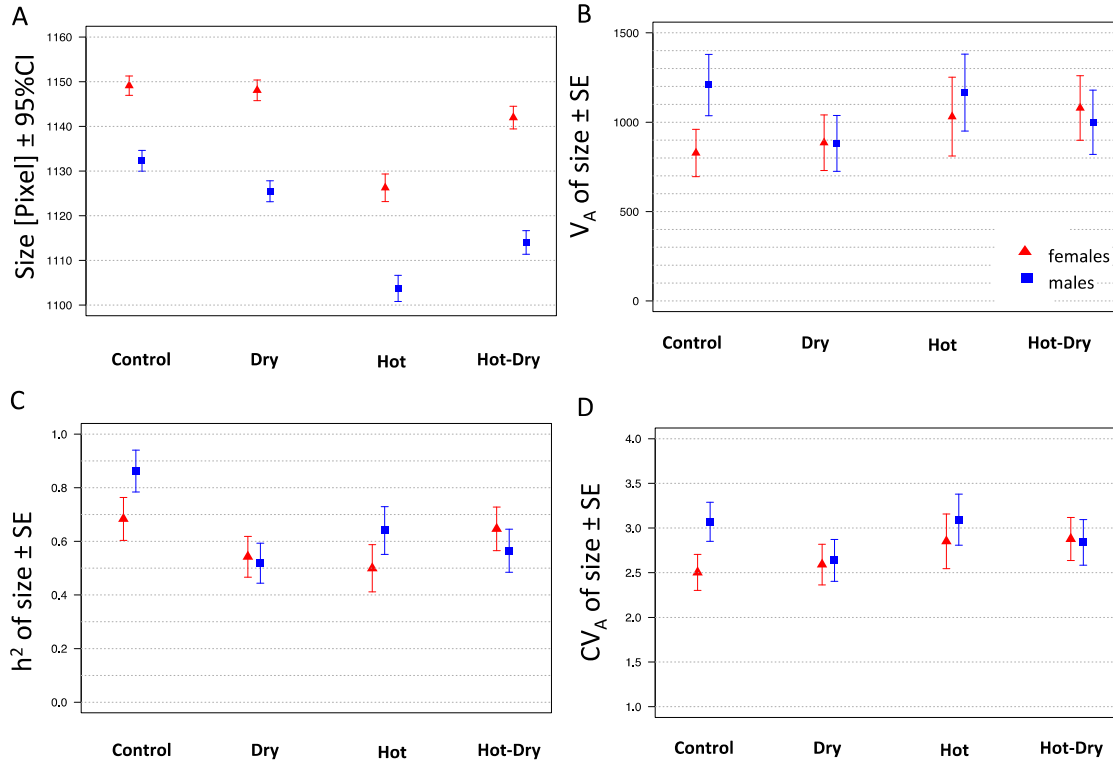
296 sex-by-condition interaction ( $F_{3,7759} = 7.27$ ,  $p = 8.16E-04$ ) indicating that males were more sensitive to stressful

297 conditions (Figure 2A).



298

299 **Figure 1:** Fitness (= number of adult offspring) (A) and estimates for its additive genetic variance ( $V_A$ ) (B), heritability ( $h^2$ )  
300 (C), and coefficient of  $V_A$  ( $CV_A$ ), which is the square root of  $V_A$  divided by the phenotypic trait mean, multiplied by 100 (D) in  
301 female and male flour beetles (*Tribolium castaneum*) in four different environmental conditions.



302

303 **Figure 2:** Body size (centroid size of abdominal segment IV) (A) and estimates for its additive genetic variance ( $V_A$ ) (B),  
 304 heritability ( $h^2$ ) (C), and coefficient of  $V_A$  ( $CV_A$ ) (D) in female and male flour beetles (*Tribolium castaneum*) in four different  
 305 environmental conditions.

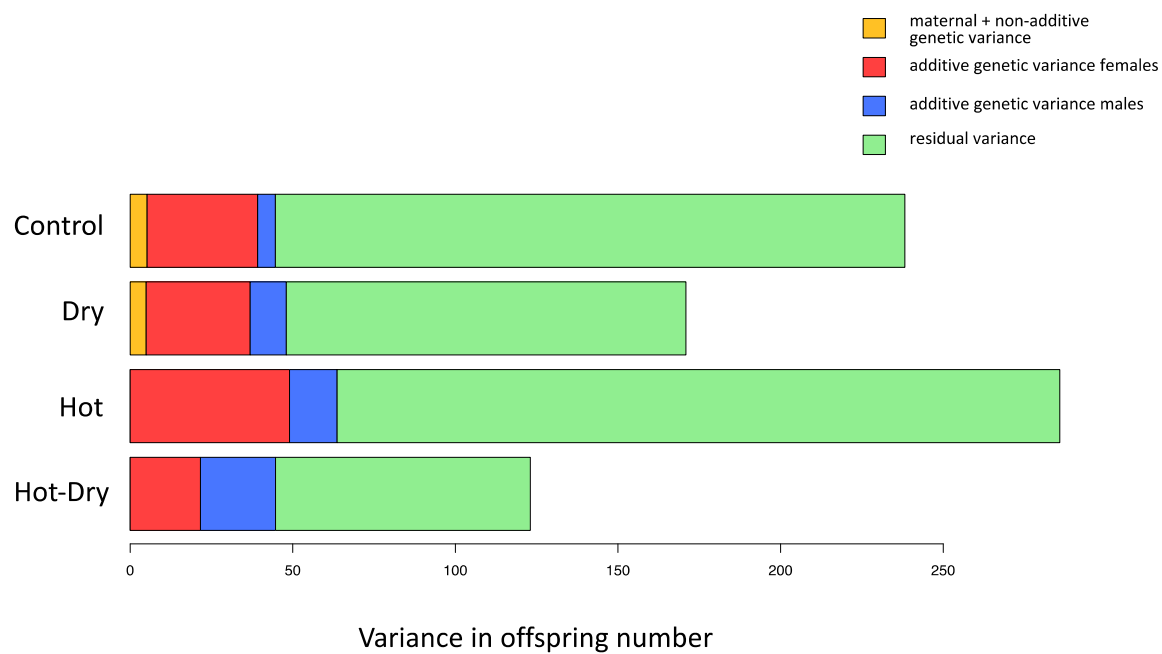
306

### 307 Genetic variances and covariances

#### 308 Fitness

309  $V_M$ , which consisted of variance due to maternal effects, common environment and non-additive effects, was  
 310 not significant in any condition. We found significant  $V_A$  for female fitness in all conditions (Table 1).  $V_A$  for  
 311 males was generally smaller ( $P = 8.10E-03$ ) and not significantly different from zero in Control and Hot. A  
 312 remarkable exception was Hot-Dry, where male  $V_A$  was increased and of the same magnitude as female  $V_A$   
 313 (Figure 3).  $V_A$  in females was similar in Control and Dry but increased in Hot and was reduced in Hot-Dry (Figure  
 314 1B). Since residual variances changed simultaneously with  $V_A$  (Table 1),  $h^2$  for females was similar in all stress  
 315 conditions (Figure 1C). When we compared genetic variances using standardized data, we found  $h^2$  of males ( $P$

316 = 2.75E-03), but not females ( $P = 0.55$ ) to differ significantly between conditions. Similarly,  $I_A$  was affected by  
317 conditions in males ( $P = 8.87E-05$ ), but not in females ( $P = 0.07$ ). When we tested a model constraining  $V_A$  of  
318 females and males to be the same in all conditions, we found it to be significantly worse ( $P = 2.46E-08$ ) than an  
319 unconstrained model, thus showing that the total amount of heritable genetic variance ( $V_A$  of females and  
320 males) was different between treatments.



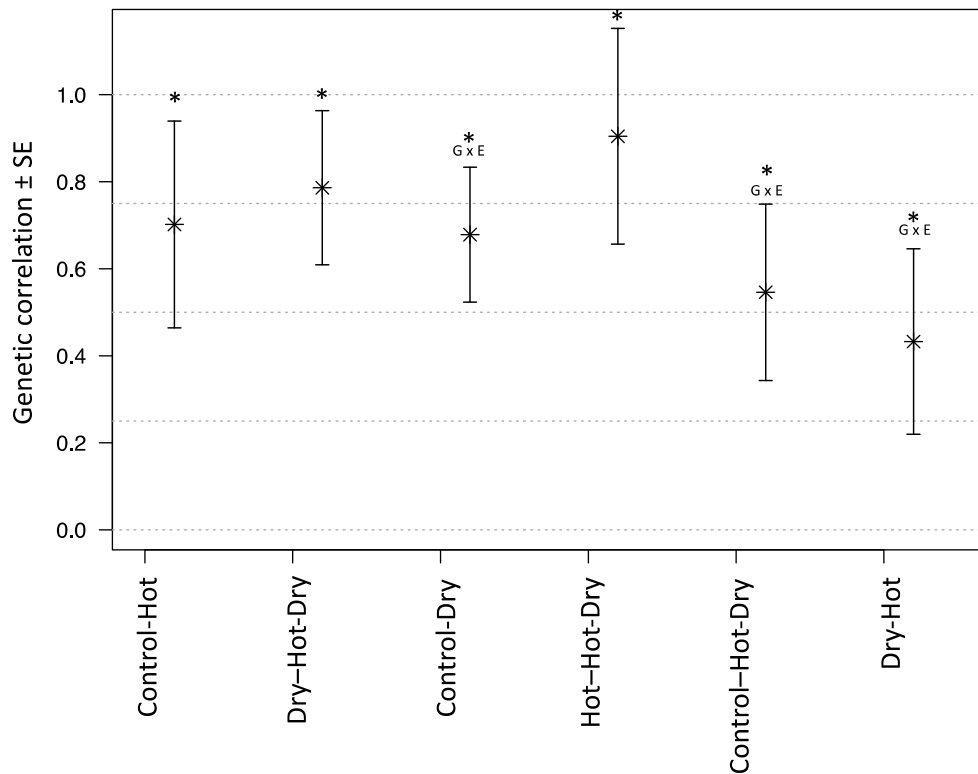
321 **Figure 3:** Variance components of offspring number of *Tribolium castaneum* in four different environmental conditions  
322 estimated using univariate animal models.

323 **Table 1:** Genetic variances ( $V_A$ : additive genetic variance;  $V_M$ : maternal variance;  $V_R$ : residual variance), heritability ( $h^2$ ),  
 324 coefficient of additive genetic variance ( $CV_A$ ) of offspring number and cross-sex additive genetic covariances ( $COV_A$ ) and  
 325 correlations ( $r_A$ ) in different environmental conditions. Estimates for genetic variances were obtained from a univariate  
 326 animal model including additive genetic effects of males and females as random effects. For  $COV_A$  and  $r_A$  univariate animal  
 327 models were used with covariance between female and additive genetic effects. N gives the number of reproducing  
 328 females used for the analysis. All significant results are in bold.

	Condition			
	Control	Dry	Hot	Hot-Dry
<b>N</b>	1514	1603	1005	1396
<b>mean (SE)</b>	49.09 (0.4)	43.88 (0.36)	33.18 (0.55)	25.73 (0.31)
<b><math>V_A</math> females (SE)</b>	<b>34.06 (18.75)</b>	<b>32.00 (14.71)</b>	<b>48.99 (20.02)</b>	<b>21.62 (7.71)</b>
<b><math>h^2</math> females (SE)</b>	<b>0.14 (0.08)</b>	<b>0.19 (0.09)</b>	<b>0.17 (0.07)</b>	<b>0.18 (0.06)</b>
<b><math>CV_A</math> females (SE)</b>	<b>11.89 (3.27)</b>	<b>12.89 (2.97)</b>	<b>21.10 (4.32)</b>	<b>18.07 (3.23)</b>
<b><math>V_A</math> males (SE)</b>	5.44 (7.29)	<b>11.14 (5.35)</b>	14.62 (12.59)	<b>23.09 (5.40)</b>
<b><math>h^2</math> male (SE)</b>	0.02 (0.03)	<b>0.07 (0.03)</b>	0.05 (0.04)	<b>0.19 (0.04)</b>
<b><math>CV_A</math> males (SE)</b>	4.75 (3.18)	<b>7.61 (1.83)</b>	11.53 (4.97)	<b>18.68 (2.20)</b>
<b><math>V_M</math> (SE)</b>	5.18 (10.30)	4.90 (7.55)	2.26E-07 (5.03E-0.5)	2.76E-05 (2.21E-06)
<b><math>V_R</math> (SE)</b>	193.39 (13.65)	122.88 (9.79)	222.27 (20.00)	78.35 (6.27)
<b><math>V_P</math> (SE)</b>	238.22 (8.88)	170.91 (6.33)	235.88 (13.10)	123.05 (4.96)
<b><math>COV_{A \text{ female,male}}</math> (SE)</b>	<b>25.73 (6.29)</b>	<b>11.75 (4.92)</b>	-9.24 (11.02)	<b>11.54 (4.21)</b>
<b><math>r_{A \text{ female,male}}</math> (SE)</b>	<b>1.55 (0.66)</b>	<b>0.54 (0.22)</b>	-0.36 (0.45)	<b>0.52 (0.18)</b>

329  
 330  
 331 Genetic correlations between fitness in different conditions were always positive (Figure 4) and significant.  
 332 However, we found significant differences between the different cross-condition correlations ( $P = 0.05$ ).  
 333 Correlations were slightly lower when the conditions differed in temperature and humidity (Control–Hot-Dry,  
 334 Dry–Hot) (Figure 4). We found significant G x E between Control and Dry, Control and Hot-Dry as well as Dry  
 335 and Hot.





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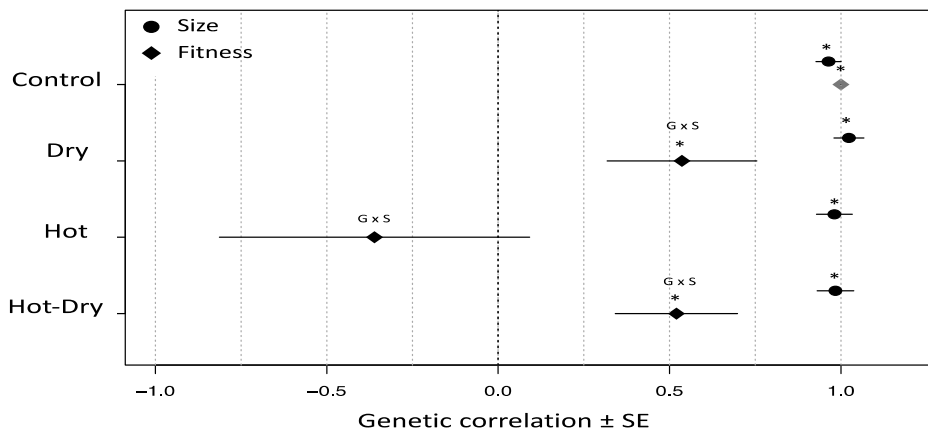
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338 **Figure 4:** Pairwise cross-environment genetic correlations of fitness in *Tribolium castaneum* estimated using bivariate  
339 animal models. \* show significant correlations, i.e. significantly different from zero. G x E (= genotype by environment  
340 interactions) indicate correlations significantly different from one. Control: 33°C, 70% relative humidity (r.h.); Dry: 33°C,  
341 30% r.h.; Hot: 37°C, 70% r.h.; Hot-Dry: 37°C, 30% r.h.

342

343 Genetic correlations in fitness between females and males (Figure 5) were significant in Control ( $P = 1.02E-06$ ),  
344 Dry ( $P = 1.34E-02$ ), and Hot-Dry ( $P = 4.47E-04$ ), but not in Hot ( $P = 0.10$ ). The correlation was highest in Control  
345 (Table 1, Figure 5). It decreased in the stress treatments and became even negative in Hot. In all conditions  
346 except Control, we found that the correlation was significantly different from one (Dry:  $P = 1.95E-03$ ; Hot:  $P =$   
347  $5.78E-03$ ; Hot-Dry:  $P = 1.26E-04$ ), indicating G x S, i.e. that genetic basis of fitness is different in the sexes.  $I_A$ ,  
348 the expected evolutionary change as percentage of the mean, was highest in Hot and smallest in Control

349 (females/males  $\pm$  SE: Control:  $1.59 \pm 0.49/0.30 \pm 0.29$ ; Dry:  $2.05 \pm 0.50/0.63 \pm 0.27$ ; Hot:  $4.32 \pm 1.81/1.25 \pm$   
350  $1.14$ ; Hot-Dry:  $3.20 \pm 1.14/ 3.51 \pm 8.1$ ). Based on this, we should observe adaptation in all stress treatments  
351 with the largest relative fitness increase in Hot. However, given the negative correlation between male and  
352 female additive genetic effects (Figure 5, Table 1), the evolutionary response may be constrained and less than  
353 predicted. Taking female - male genetic correlations into account (see Methods) gave us an estimated  
354 increase of mean fitness of 3.90% in Dry, 3.89% in Hot, and 10.20% in Hot-Dry per generation. Assuming  $V_A$   
355 remains constant, the total change of mean fitness after 19 generations (generation 20) would be 106.81% in  
356 Dry, 106.57% in Hot and 532.54% in Hot-Dry.



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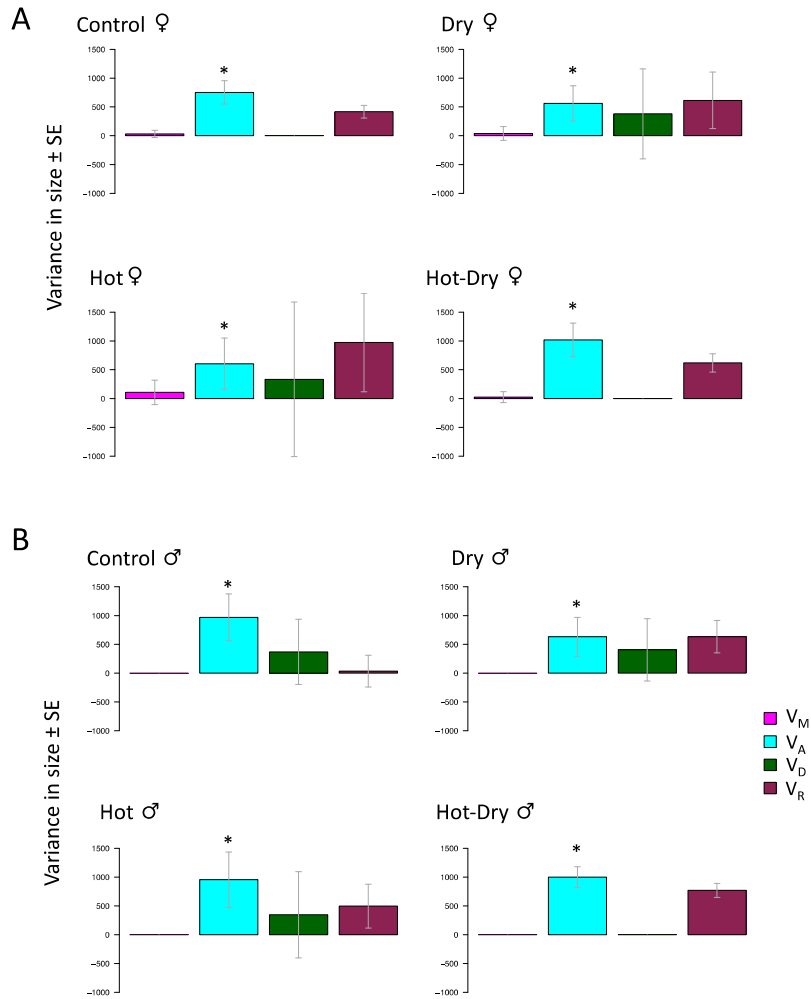
358 **Figure 5:** Cross-sex genetic correlations for size and fitness in *Tribolium castaneum* under different environmental  
359 conditions. \* indicates a significant correlation. G x S (= genotype by sex interaction) indicates that correlation is  
360 significantly different from one. Estimate for genetic correlation of fitness in Control was bounded at one and no SE was  
361 available. Using models with unconstrained variances and covariances yielded an estimate of  $1.55 \pm 0.66$ .  $V_A$  of males was  
362 small in Control, which impedes precise estimation of cross-sex genetic correlation.

363 *Size*

364  $V_A$  in size was highly significant in both sexes and in all conditions ( $P < 0.001$ ). The results for  $V_D$  were less clear.

365 In Control and Hot-Dry estimates for  $V_D$  were extremely small and estimates bounded at zero, indicating that

366 non-additive effects contributed little to observed variation (Figure 6). In Dry and Hot,  $V_D$  was not significant,  
367 but variance estimates were high when it was included in the model (Table 2, Figure 6). A model without non-  
368 additive effects resulted in much higher estimates of  $V_A$  in Dry and Hot (Supplemental Table S3). In most cases,  
369 P-values for  $V_D$  were far from significance ( $P > 0.2$ ), but for females in Dry and in Hot P-values were lower  
370 although still not significant ( $P = 0.13$  and  $P = 0.10$ ). When we combined males and females and added sex as  
371 fixed effect in the model, we obtained a P-value of 0.075 in Hot. Genetic correlations for size across conditions  
372 were always positive (Supplemental Figure S7), but no clear pattern emerged. We found significant G x E in  
373 female size between Control-Dry ( $P = 2.78E-03$ ). In male size, G x E was significant between Control-Dry ( $P =$   
374  $6.39E-03$ ), Dry-Hot ( $P = 5.39E-03$ ), Dry-Hot-Dry ( $P = 0.04$ ), and Hot-Hot-Dry ( $P = 3.93E-03$ ). Genetic correlations  
375 between female and male size were close to one (Table 2, Figure 5) in all conditions, suggesting that size  
376 cannot evolve independently in both sexes.  $I_A$  of female and male size was not significantly different ( $P = 0.08$ )  
377 considering all conditions. Although differences in Control seemed to be substantial (Figure 4B-D), they were  
378 not significant ( $h^2$ :  $P = 0.26$ ;  $I_A$ :  $P = 0.06$ ). We found that environmental change did not influence  $I_A$  and  $h^2$  of  
379 female size ( $P = 0.13$ ;  $P = 0.14$ ) nor male  $I_A$  ( $P = 0.13$ ), but had a significant effect on male  $h^2$  ( $P = 0.02$ ).



380

381 **Figure 6:** Variance components of size in female **(A)** and male **(B)** flour beetles (*Tribolium castaneum*) under four  
382 environmental conditions:  $V_M$ : maternal variance,  $V_A$ : additive genetic variance,  $V_D$ : non-additive genetic variance,  $V_R$ :  
383 residual variance. \* indicates a significant variance component.

384

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386

387 **Table 2:** Body size genetic variances ( $V_A$ : additive genetic variance;  $V_D$ : dominance variance;  $V_M$ : maternal variance;  $V_R$ :  
 388 residual variance), heritability ( $h^2$ ), coefficient of additive genetic variance ( $CV_A$ ) in female and male flour beetles and cross-  
 389 sex additive genetic covariances ( $COV_A$ ) and correlations ( $r_A$ ) in different environmental conditions. Estimates for genetic  
 390 variances were obtained from univariate animal models for each sex separately. For  $COV_A$  and  $r_A$  bivariate animal models  
 391 were used. All significant results are in bold.

		Condition							
		Control		Dry		Hot		Hot-Dry	
<b>Females</b>	<b>N</b>	1020		1181		837		960	
	<b>mean (SE)</b>	1149.13 (1.10)	1148.08 (1.18)	1126.25 (1.57)	1141.96 (1.29)				
	<b><math>V_A</math> (SE)</b>	<b>751.79 (201.63)</b>	<b>560.98 (305.17)</b>	<b>603.78 (446.35)</b>	<b>1017.45 (291.52)</b>				
	<b><math>V_D</math> (SE)</b>	6.63E-04 (1.73E-04)	379.526 (782.07)	333.554 (1342.287)	8.670E-04 (2.21E-04)				
	<b><math>V_M</math> (SE)</b>	29.61 (63.13)	38.57 (119.09)	107.14 (210.86)	25.58 (96.18)				
	<b><math>V_R</math> (SE)</b>	417.11 (108.70)	613.14 (490.95)	973.23 (854.49)	618.81 (157.41)				
	<b><math>V_P</math> (SE)</b>	1198.52 (72.27)	1592.19 (82.03)	2017.74 (117.05)	1661.84 (100.31)				
	<b><math>h^2</math> (SE)</b>	<b>0.63 (0.14)</b>	<b>0.35 (0.18)</b>	<b>0.30 (0.21)</b>	<b>0.61 (0.15)</b>				
	<b><math>CV_A</math> (SE)</b>	<b>2.39 (0.32)</b>	<b>2.06 (0.56)</b>	<b>2.18 (0.81)</b>	<b>2.79 (0.40)</b>				
<b>Males</b>	<b>N</b>	1008		1183		834		962	
	<b>mean (SE)</b>	1132.31 (1.18)	1125.47 (1.19)	1103.73 (1.50)	1114.01 (1.34)				
	<b><math>V_A</math> (SE)</b>	<b>969.79 (406.67)</b>	<b>632.66 (335.68)</b>	<b>954.83 (479.70)</b>	<b>999.70 (179.66)</b>				
	<b><math>V_D</math> (SE)</b>	369.18 (567.38)	404.65 (539.19)	346.49 (748.68)	4.94E-03 (7.90E-04)				
	<b><math>V_M</math> (SE)</b>	6.59E-06 (5.07E-05)	4.88E-04 (2.18E-04)	6.54E-04 (5.00E-04)	3.14E-04 (5.02E-05)				
	<b><math>V_R</math> (SE)</b>	35.85 (275.83)	634.64 (282.89)	496.90 (380.49)	769.42 (123.08)				
	<b><math>V_P</math> (SE)</b>	1374.81 (293.93)	1672.04 (87.39)	798.22 (118.96)	1769 (98.50)				
	<b><math>h^2</math> (SE)</b>	<b>0.71 (0.25)</b>	<b>0.38 (0.19)</b>	<b>0.53 (0.25)</b>	<b>0.57 (0.08)</b>				
	<b><math>CV_A</math> (SE)</b>	<b>2.75 (0.58)</b>	<b>2.23 (0.59)</b>	<b>2.80 (0.70)</b>	<b>2.84 (0.26)</b>				
	<b><math>COV_{A \text{ female,male}}</math> (SE)</b>	<b>955.25 (120.93)</b>	<b>1002.06 (128.10)</b>	<b>1140.11 (175.33)</b>	<b>976.20 (137.10)</b>				
	<b><math>r_{A \text{ female,male}}</math> (SE)</b>	<b>0.96 (0.04)</b>	<b>1.02 (0.04)</b>	<b>0.98 (0.05)</b>	<b>0.98 (0.05)</b>				

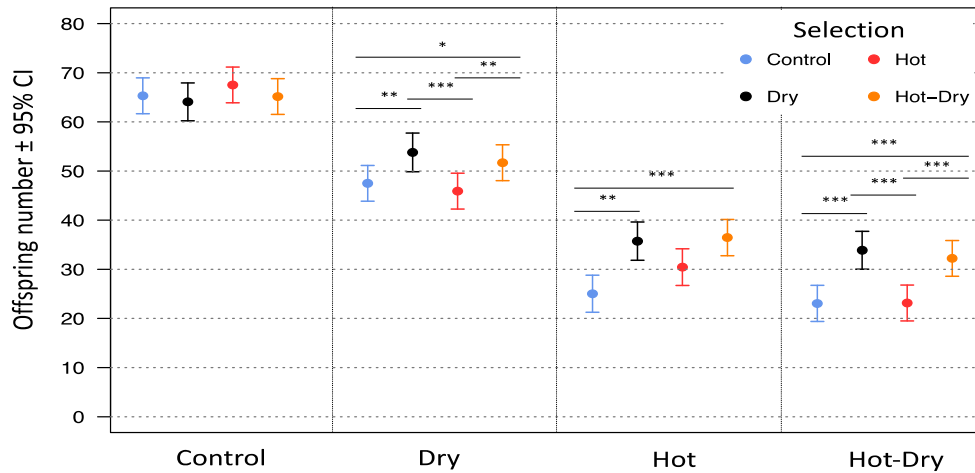
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### 395 **Adaptation after 20 generations and asymmetric correlated responses**

396 We found significant adaptation to all conditions after 20 generations, shown by significant effects of selection  
397 regime on offspring number (Dry:  $F_{1,16} = 10.43$ ,  $p = 0.005$ ; Hot:  $F_{1,18} = 4.80$ ,  $p = 0.042$ ; Hot-Dry:  $F_{1,18} = 14.78$ ,  $p =$   
398  $0.001$ , Table S2). In all treatments, the native selection lines produced significantly more offspring than non-  
399 adapted control lines (Figure 7). The largest difference and most significant fitness increase was observed in  
400 the most stressful condition Hot-Dry. In contrast to the three stress treatments, we did not find any differences  
401 between lines from different selection regimes in the ancestral control condition (Figure 7), showing that  
402 adaptation to stress treatments did not come at a cost of reduced fitness in control conditions. Interestingly,  
403 drought selection resulted in higher heat resistance. Dry lines showed a significantly higher offspring number  
404 in Hot and Hot-Dry (estimated increase in offspring number relative to Control lines:  $12.10 \pm 2.23$ ,  $p = 3.64E-07$   
405 in Hot;  $12.18 \pm 2.18$ ,  $p = 4.20E-07$  in Hot-Dry ). In Hot, they performed even better than the native Hot-lines  
406 (mean offspring number in Hot [95% CI]: Control-lines: 24.59 [20.71, 28.47]; Hot-lines: 29.94 [26.11, 33.77];  
407 Dry-lines: 35.69 [31.77, 39.61]; Hot-Dry-lines: 36.91 [33.14, 40.68]). We did not observe such a correlated  
408 response in the Hot-lines (Figure 7). Their offspring number in Dry was not different from those of Control-  
409 Lines. Lines in Hot-Dry that adapted to a combination of heat and drought showed an increased fitness in both  
410 single stressor treatments (in Dry:  $4.45 \pm 2.10$ ,  $p = 0.04$ ; in Hot:  $11.66 \pm 2.17$ ,  $p = 1.20E-04$ ). Despite high  
411 genetic correlation in fitness between Hot and Hot-Dry estimated in the first generation, we found no  
412 correlated response of Hot-lines to Hot-Dry conditions. Their offspring number was not different from non-  
413 adapted Control-Lines (Hot-lines: 23.14 [19.43, 26.84 CI]; Control-lines: 23.03 [19.30, 26.76 CI]).



414

415

416 **Figure 7:** Mean offspring number per female of lines from different selection regimes under different environmental  
417 conditions. Significant differences between selection regimes within the same condition (Tukey's HSD post hoc test, p-  
418 values adjusted for multiple comparisons) are indicated by \*P<0.05, \*\*P<0.01, \*\*\*P<0.001.

419

420 The observed changes in fitness after experimental evolution were much lower than the predicted total  
421 changes. Observed fitness increases relative to Control-lines were: Dry:  $16.43 \pm 3.24$  %, Hot:  $22.37 \pm 4.34$  %  
422 and  $46.29 \pm 2.17$  % in Hot-Dry. Nonetheless, in agreement with our predictions we observed the strongest  
423 increase in Hot-Dry and similar increases in Dry and Hot.

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## 430 **Discussion**

431 Consequences of environmental change on persistence of populations strongly depend on their ability to  
432 adapt either by plastic or genetic changes. The stress conditions we applied, had a strong impact on fitness.  
433 Offspring number in Hot-Dry was reduced to ca. 50% of control level thus clearly showing that plasticity was  
434 not able to fully compensate for the negative effects of environmental change. We found significant  $V_A$  in  
435 fitness in all conditions indicating potential to adapt by genetic changes with no evidence that environmental  
436 changes lowered the adaptive potential. In contrary,  $I_A$  of female and male fitness increased in the stress  
437 treatments, which should facilitate adaptation. Accordingly, we found significant adaptation to all conditions  
438 after 20 generations of experimental evolution. We also did not find strong evidence of genetic constraints on  
439 adaptation between stressors or sexes as most genetic correlations were positive (but not in Hot, see Figure 5).  
440 Taking account of both male and female variances and covariance in fitness allowed us to make better  
441 predictions of fitness increase. All in all, our study shows that although it is not possible to predict the precise  
442 fitness increase over this period of 20 generations, we can make qualitative predictions about adaptation  
443 based on  $V_A$  estimates. We can examine whether a population is likely to adapt and make relative comparisons  
444 between stress treatments, i.e. identify those where we expect the largest relative increase in fitness. We thus  
445 show that existing quantitative genetic tools are informative over time scales beyond single generation  
446 responses. However, reliability of predictions may require a fully integrative approach including potential  
447 genetic covariances between the sexes as well as a careful choice of the traits used as fitness estimate.

448

### 449 *Evolutionary potential and adaptation*

450  $V_A$  of female fitness was higher than  $V_A$  of male fitness in all conditions except Hot-Dry. Egg production is likely  
451 to be costly and reduced when females are stressed due to a resource allocation trade-off. It is therefore not  
452 surprising that variation in reproductive output could be mainly explained by genetic differences among  
453 females, whereas genetic variation among males had only a minor influence. However, this changed when  
454 humidity was reduced. In Dry conditions,  $V_A$  for males became significant (but was still much smaller compared



455 to females) and in Hot-Dry,  $V_A$  in both sexes were similar. It was observed that the condition of *Tribolium* males  
456 could have a significant influence on the reproductive output of their mating partner. Starvation of males  
457 reduced insemination success (Lewis et al. 2012), the number of eggs laid, and the proportion of unfertilized  
458 eggs (Sbilordo et al. 2011). It seems plausible that desiccation might have similar effects. Producing ejaculate  
459 may be costly and decreased under dry conditions to reduce water loss. Genetic differences in male drought  
460 resistance would then translate into observed offspring variation and result in a higher male influence on  
461 female reproductive output. Although male  $V_A$  was small in ancestral conditions, evolution of males seemed to  
462 play an important role in adapting to Hot-Dry. In contrast to the between-sex differences in fitness  $V_A$ , we did  
463 not find clear differences in  $V_A$  between sexes for body size. The largest difference was in Control (Figure 2),  
464 with a lower female  $V_A$ . It is likely that female size had been under strong positive selection since it is  
465 associated with fecundity (Honěk 1993), which might explain the observed reduction. Additionally, while we  
466 observed an increase in  $V_A$  for male fitness in the Dry treatment,  $V_A$  for male size was reduced in Dry. A drought  
467 effect was thus also detectable for size: When we explored the effects of temperature and humidity on size,  
468 we found a significant (although small) sex-treatment-interaction indicating that male size was more sensitive  
469 to drought than female size. G x E for male size occurred when conditions differed in humidity.

470  
471 Positive cross-condition genetic correlations indicated an absence of an evolutionary trade-off between  
472 drought and heat adaptation. Consistently, we did not find any selection line performing worse than control  
473 lines in any condition after experimental evolution. It was previously shown that the treatments induce  
474 substantial changes in gene expression (Koch and Guillaume 2020). It might then be that selection in the stress  
475 treatments is on genes that are not expressed in control and thus allele frequency changes do not sufficiently  
476 affect fitness under control conditions. Because positive genetic correlations indicate a similar genetic basis for  
477 fitness under different conditions, adapting to one condition should result in a correlated response and  
478 increased fitness in other conditions. Accordingly, we found that drought adaptation improved heat resistance  
479 (Figure 7). However, this correlated response was asymmetric since we did not observe an effect of heat  
480 adaptation on drought resistance. A possible explanation is that selection in dry and hot conditions shifted

481 allele frequencies of genes with different pleiotropic effects (Bohren et al. 1966). Alternatively, the pleiotropic  
482 degree of a gene might be environment dependent (Barrett et al. 2009). Interestingly, we found that genetic  
483 correlations in generation one were lower when the conditions differed in both temperature and humidity,  
484 which is the case in Control-Hot-Dry and Dry-Hot (Figure 4) suggesting that the genetic basis for adaptation to  
485 heat and drought might be slightly different.

486  
487 We found the highest positive cross-sex genetic correlation in fitness in Control with lower estimates in the  
488 treatments and a negative correlation in Hot. Several studies in the wild (Brommer et al. 2007; Foerster et al.  
489 2007; Mokkonen et al. 2011) as well as in laboratory populations (Delcourt et al. 2009; Punzalan et al. 2014)  
490 reported negative genetic correlations between female and male fitness. It is not well understood how cross-  
491 sex correlations are influenced by the environment and contrasting predictions have been made. For instance,  
492 it was argued that in a population far from its optimum after an environmental shift, females and males might  
493 experience similar directional selection leading to high a positive correlation in their fitness (Berger et al. 2014;  
494 Connallon and Hall 2016; Wolak et al. 2018). In contrast, genetic covariances between sexes have been  
495 predicted to be less negative in ancestral conditions (Delcourt et al. 2009), because selection on the long-term  
496 should favour alleles providing fitness benefits to both (Collet et al. 2016). This last prediction is consistent  
497 with our observations.

498  
499 Taking the male  $V_A$  and the covariances between female and male fitness into account led us to predict the  
500 highest relative increase in fitness in Hot-Dry and smaller but similar increases in Dry and Hot. Ignoring male  
501 and cross-sex effects when studying the adaptive capacity of a population can thus lead to misleading  
502 predictions. The results of the fitness assay after 20 generations mainly matched our predictions but increases  
503 in fitness were much lower than our estimated upper limit. However, our predictions are based on the  
504 assumption of constant  $V_A$  and consequently exponentially increasing fitness (Falconer and MacKay 1996).  
505 Trade-offs between different fitness components are expected to occur because physiological limits, e.g. for

506 egg laying rate, exist and should prevent an infinite fitness increase. It is also important to note that the  
507 conditions during the fitness assay were not exactly the same as during evolution. To measure the offspring  
508 number per female. each female was kept individually in egg-laying tubes. In contrast, all individuals of the  
509 same line were kept in one vial during experimental evolution. Effects of density and competition that might  
510 have influenced adaptation were not captured in our fitness assay. Our results after 19 generations might be  
511 further influenced by evolution of control lines that were used as reference representing the ancestral non-  
512 evolved stage. Significant  $V_A$  under control conditions in addition to high and positive genetic correlations  
513 between fitness in control and stress conditions suggest a fitness increase in control lines over time and  
514 correlated responses in the treatments. This might have led to an underestimation of the true fitness increase  
515 of adapted selection lines. Interestingly, we found no difference between lines from different selection  
516 regimes in Control. A reason might be that genes responsible for fitness in the treatments are not expressed  
517 under control conditions. Evolutionary changes in these genes that occurred during adaptation to the  
518 treatments would not show any effect on fitness under control conditions leading to cryptic genetic variation.  
519 In control lines these genes were not exposed to selection and consequently control lines showed a lower  
520 fitness compared to adapted selection line when exposed to the treatments.

521

#### 522 *Variance components of fitness and body size*

523 Both traits differed markedly in the proportion of different variance components and in the environmental  
524 effect on genetic variances.  $h^2$  was much higher in size than in fitness. This is a common finding in many studies  
525 (Roff and Mousseau 1987; Kruuk et al. 2000; McCleery et al. 2004; Teplitsky et al. 2009). It had been initially  
526 interpreted as evidence for strong selection depleting  $V_A$  in fitness related traits. However, a high  $V_A$  can be  
527 concealed in  $h^2$  by a simultaneous increase of the total variance (Houle 1992; Merilä and Sheldon 1999;  
528 Hansen et al. 2011; Wheelwright et al. 2014). Given the highly polygenic nature of fitness, it was even argued  
529 that fitness might show higher  $V_A$  (Merilä and Sheldon 1999), since it represents a larger mutational target.  
530 Furthermore, fitness is a composite character with a high number of morphological, physiological and  
531 behavioral traits contributing to it, each of them with some underlying genetic variance. However, each

532 contributing trait may increase the influence of environmental variation, leading to a higher total variance in  
533 fitness (Price and Schulter 1991) and thus a lower  $h^2$ . According to those previous considerations, we found  
534 much higher estimates of mean-scaled  $V_A$  ( $CV_A$ ,  $I_A$ ) in offspring number than in body size and a lower  $h^2$  in  
535 fitness. The lower  $h^2$  was mainly due to a higher proportion of environmental variance ( $V_R$ ) when compared to  
536 body size. Contrary to body size, we could not directly estimate  $V_D$  for fitness because we could not  
537 disentangle  $V_D$  from  $V_M$  and common environmental effects in the F1 with our half-sib/full-sib breeding design.  
538 However, if  $V_D$  were present, then it should be included in  $V_M$ , because it contributes to full-sib resemblance  
539 via a shared mother. Comparative studies investigating the relative amount of  $V_A$  and  $V_D$  suggested that  
540 proportion of  $V_D$  can be substantial and of the same magnitude as  $V_A$  (Crnokrak and Roff 1995; Wolak and  
541 Keller 2014). An increased proportion of  $V_D$  is expected in populations under strong selection, since  $V_D$  is not  
542 affected by natural selection (Crnokrak and Roff 1995; Merilä and Sheldon 1999; Roff and Emerson 2006;  
543 Sztepanacz and Blows 2015), or with increased inbreeding (Falconer and Makay, 1996). In our experiment,  $V_M$   
544 for fitness was much lower than  $V_A$ , even close to zero in Hot and Hot-Dry (Figure 3), suggesting that  $V_D$   
545 contributed much less to total genetic variance than  $V_A$ .

546  
547 We could directly estimate  $V_D$  for body size in the F2 cross and can thus provide data for this rarely estimated  
548 variance component. Although our  $V_D$  estimates for size were always associated with large SE, they suggest  
549 that  $V_D$  is present and environment dependent. The highest estimates of  $V_D$  were found in Dry and Hot for both  
550 male and female size, while it remained close to zero in Control and Hot-Dry. This environmental dependence  
551 of  $V_D$  has not been studied in detail before, although the environmental dependence of inbreeding depression  
552 was previously described (Bijlsma et al. 1999; Armbruster and Reed 2005; Fox and Reed 2011). Both  $V_D$  and  
553 inbreeding depression are expected to increase with inbreeding, for instance in shrinking populations when  
554 allele and genotype frequencies change because of increased drift (Falconer and Makay, 1996). This could have  
555 important implications since environmental changes may emphasize the effects of inbreeding on survival and  
556 thus on population size too, directly affecting genetic variances.

557

558 The large uncertainty around our estimates of  $V_D$  may come from the double-first cousin (DFC) breeding design  
559 used in the F2, despite the large sample size we had (827 family pairs with DFC offspring). Although the DFC  
560 design was proposed to estimate  $V_D$  (Fairbairn and Roff 2006), it may have limited statistical power because  
561 the probability that DFC share alleles identical by descent at a given locus is only 6.25 %, resulting in large SE,  
562 in contrast to full-sibs where this probability is 25%. Therefore, comparing maternal half-sibs and full-sibs  
563 might be a much more powerful approach to estimate  $V_D$ , while it allows us to disentangle non-additive from  
564 maternal effects at the same time .

565

566 Although we could estimate genetic correlations between fitness and size with our data set (Supplemental  
567 Table S4), it was not possible to get unbiased estimates of those correlations. With our design, we could not  
568 rule out a strong confounding effect of population density because body size was measured in the F2, the  
569 offspring of beetles used for the fitness assay (Supplement Figure S1). Consequently, offspring of females with  
570 a high fitness (i.e. high offspring number) grew at a higher density since we used identical tubes with the same  
571 amount of flour for all females in the fitness assay.

572

### 573 **Conclusions**

574 Our study showed an increased adaptive potential in stressful conditions and a corresponding adaptation to  
575 those conditions after 20 generations. Although precise predictions of relative increase in fitness were not  
576 possible over this time period, we could make correct qualitative predictions. We expected and observed the  
577 highest relative fitness increase in the most stressful hot-dry condition and similar increases in single stress  
578 treatments. The apparently high adaptive potential of female beetles in Hot was limited by a negative genetic  
579 correlation with male fitness. We further found that genetic effects of males on fitness can be large and can  
580 increase the adaptive potential. Comparing genetic variances of fitness and size showed that they differed in  
581 their variance composition and in their cross-sex and cross-environment genetic covariances. Environmental  
582 effects on genetic variances were also not consistent between the two traits. We thus advise caution if studies

583 interested in fitness  $V_A$  and the adaptive capacity of a population use body size as a proxy. Overall, we found  
584 that genetic variance in fitness is a key estimate of a population's adaptive capacity for time scales over 20  
585 generations. As such, it may help predict the adaptive response of populations exposed to new environmental  
586 conditions and help identify the populations most at risk of extinction. However, the reliability of such  
587 predictions will depend on the fitness estimate chosen and on the full integration of the multifaceted aspects  
588 of adaptation. Inclusion of genetic covariances between female and male fitness and genotype by environment  
589 interactions is thus important.

590  
591 **Author contributions:** FG and ELK designed the experiment. ELK and SHS conducted the experiment (crossing  
592 and fitness assay). SHS performed size measurements. ELK analysed the data. FG and ELK wrote the  
593 manuscript. SHS contributed and commented to manuscript.

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599

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