

1 **Measuring complex phenotypes: A flexible high-throughput**
2 **design for micro-respirometry**

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12 **Short Title:** Inexpensive high-throughput micro-respirometry

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14 **Keywords**

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17

18 **Abstract**

19 Variation in tissue-specific metabolism between species and among individuals is thought to be
20 adaptively important; however, understanding this evolutionary relationship requires reliably
21 measuring this trait in many individuals. In most higher organisms, tissue specificity is important
22 because different organs (heart, brain, liver, muscle) have unique ecologically adaptive roles.
23 Current technology and methodology for measuring tissue-specific metabolism is costly and
24 limited by throughput capacity and efficiency. Presented here is the design for a flexible and
25 cost-effective high-throughput micro-respirometer (HTMR) optimized to measure small
26 biological samples. To verify precision and accuracy, substrate specific metabolism was
27 measured in heart ventricles isolated from a small teleost, *Fundulus heteroclitus*, and in yeast
28 (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*). Within the system, results were reproducible between chambers and
29 over time with both teleost hearts and yeast. Additionally, metabolic rates and allometric scaling
30 relationships in *Fundulus* agree with previously published data measured with lower-throughput
31 equipment. This design reduces cost, but still provides an accurate measure of metabolism in
32 small biological samples. This will allow for high-throughput measurement of tissue metabolism
33 that can enhance understanding of the adaptive importance of complex metabolic traits.

34 **Introduction**

35 Understanding evolution and ecological adaptation can be enhanced by combining
36 genomics with quantitative analyses of complex phenotypic traits [1]. This integrative approach
37 requires sufficient sample size (i.e. 100s to 1000s) with precise measure of phenotypes, however
38 it can be challenging to obtain economical equipment for such high-throughput quantification.
39 To address this challenge, we present an inexpensive custom design to measure metabolism in
40 small biological samples such as cell suspensions, individual tissues or possibly small organisms.
41 Metabolism is a complex trait intricated in most physiological processes and is important to
42 organismal success. Thus, metabolism is ecologically and evolutionarily important [2–11]. The
43 effect of the environment on metabolism as well as tissue-specific variation can vary
44 considerably among individuals and populations [12–18]. These and other data suggest that
45 measuring metabolism can provide insights into the ecology and evolution of organisms [5].

46 Metabolism is typically quantified via oxygen consumption rates (MO_2). Numerous
47 systems to measure MO_2 are available from companies including Unisense, PreSens, and Loligo,
48 but each has limitations with respect to technical design, throughput capacity, and cost. For small
49 biological samples, systems often have limited capacity (e.g. Oxygraph 2-K, OROBOS
50 INSTRUMENTS, Innsbruck, Austria) or require expensive reagents and disposables (e.g.,
51 Seahorse XF Analyzers, Agilent, Santa Clara, CA). Therefore, these systems are not ideal for
52 high-throughput experimental designs as it becomes time consuming and expensive to measure
53 many samples. There is a need in the field for a simple design that can measure multiple sample
54 simultaneously at a reduced cost. Here we present a design for a high-throughput micro-
55 respirometer (HTMR) that increases throughput of tissue-specific metabolism while minimizing
56 costs maintaining and maintaining efficacy. We validate the precision and accuracy of this

57 system by measuring both *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and substrate specific metabolism in
58 *Fundulus heteroclitus* heart ventricles.

59 **Materials and methods**

60 **Instrumentation**

61 The HTMR consists of a custom external plexiglass water bath designed to enclose 1-ml
62 micro-respiration chambers (Unisense) (Fig 1A). The water bath is connected to a temperature-
63 controlled, re-circulating system, and placed on a multi-place stir plate. Each chamber contains a
64 stir bar and nylon mesh screen for mixing media while keeping tissues suspended (Fig 1B).
65 Exact chamber volumes were determined by measuring the mass (to 0.001 g) of water that
66 completely filled individual chambers with the mesh screen and stir bar. A fluorometric oxygen
67 sensor spot (PreSens) is adhered to the internal side of the chamber lid with a polymer optical
68 fiber cable affixed to each chamber lid for contactless oxygen measurement through the sensor
69 spot. All cables are connected to a 10-channel microfiber-optic oxygen meter (PreSens), which
70 uses PreSens Measurement Studio 2 software to collect oxygen data at a sampling rate of 20
71 measurements per minute. Sensors were calibrated at 0% (using 0.05 g sodium dithionite per 1
72 ml of media) and 100% air saturation (fully oxygenated media). Validation of the HTMR was
73 carried out using a four-chamber system; however, it can easily be extended to a 10-chamber
74 system as in Fig 1A.

75 **Fig 1. Ten chamber high-throughput micro-respirometer (HTMR).** (A) PreSens 10-channel oxygen meter with
76 fiber optic cables connected via contactless oxygen sensor spots in each chamber. Glass chambers are sealed in a
77 water bath for constant temperature control, positioned on a stir-plate to circulate the media within each individual
78 chamber. A temperature probe is connected and placed in the water bath to monitor temperature. (B) Individual
79 chamber design, with Unisense 1 ml micro-respiration chamber, modified with a contactless sensor spot adhered to

80 the inner surface of the lid and a stir bar below a nylon mesh screen. The fiberoptic cable is attached to the lid
81 adjacent to the sensor spot. (C) General schematic of experimental metabolic measurements in teleost ventricles.
82 Each ventricle is measured in each substrate for six minutes and then placed in the following substrate while
83 exchanging chamber media. Substrate conditions are measured as follows: 1) 5 mM glucose; 2) 1 mM palmitic acid;
84 3) 5 mM lactate, 5 mM hydroxybutyrate, 5 mM acetoacetate, and 0.1% ethanol; and 4) endogenous metabolism with
85 no substrate. Glycolytic enzyme inhibitors (10 mM iodoacetate and 20 mM 2-deoxyglucose) are added to fatty acid,
86 LKA, and endogenous conditions to inhibit residual glycolytic metabolism.

87 **Metabolic rate determinations**

88 The precision and accuracy of the HTMR was validated by measuring MO_2 in both yeast
89 (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) and teleost (*F. heteroclitus*) heart ventricles. MO_2 is measured in the
90 sealed chambers by measuring oxygen concentration at a rate of 20 measurements per minute,
91 over a six-minute period. During each daily measurement, a minimum of three blank
92 measurements, during which only media was in the chamber, were run to determine any
93 background flux. For each six-minute measurement, the last three minutes (60 datapoints) were
94 used for calculating metabolic rate. To do so, oxygen concentration was regressed against time to
95 determine the raw oxygen consumption rate ($\text{pmol} \cdot \mu\text{l}^{-1} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$). Slopes were also calculated for
96 each blank measurement and averaged by chamber to quantify background flux, then subtracted
97 from each slope. Metabolic rate was measured as $MO_2 = (M_{\text{sample}} - M_{\text{blank}}) * V_{\text{chamber}} * 1/60$,
98 where MO_2 is the final metabolic rate in $\text{pmol} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$, M is the slope of oxygen consumption per
99 sample in $\text{pmol} \cdot \mu\text{l}^{-1} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$, and V is the volume of each chamber in μl .

100 PreSens datafiles provide data per sensor with oxygen concentration ($\mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$) at each
101 time point (minutes). An R markdown file detailing this analysis of the raw PreSens data files
102 can be found at <https://github.com/ADeLiberto/FundulusGenomics.git>.

103 **Experimental Organisms**

104 *Fundulus heteroclitus* were collected using wire minnow traps from Cape Cod, MA, Mt.
105 Desert Island, ME, and Deer Isle, ME. Individuals were trapped on public land, and no permit
106 was needed to catch these marine minnows for non-commercial purposes. All fish were common
107 gardeners at 20°C and salinity of 15 ppt in re-circulating aquaria for at least five months and then
108 acclimated to 12°C or 28°C for at least two months prior to metabolic measurements. Fish were
109 randomly selected, weighed, and then sacrificed by cervical dislocation. Heart ventricles were
110 isolated and immediately placed in Ringer's media (1.5mM CaCl₂, 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 150
111 mM NaCl, 5mM KCl, 1.5mM MgSO₄) supplemented with 5 mM glucose and 10 U/ml heparin to
112 expel blood. Media was incubated at the measurement temperature prior to use. Ventricles were
113 then splayed following precedent of previous cardiac metabolism measurements in *F.*
114 *heteroclitus* [19]. Splaying the hearts decreases variation and increases overall oxygen
115 consumption rates, as greater internal surface area is exposed to the substrate media [20]. After
116 splaying, hearts were not further stimulated, as mechanical disruption or homogenization can
117 increase variability in oxygen consumption rates [15]. All animal husbandry and experimental
118 procedures were approved through the University of Miami Institutional Animal Care and Use
119 Committee (Protocol # 19-045).

120 **Methodological validation**

121 In order to validate the HTMR performance, several parameters were tested: 1) net flux at
122 multiple oxygen concentrations, 2) between-chamber variability in MO₂, and 3) consistency of
123 MO₂ over time. To quantify net flux and confirm equal rates between chambers, flux was
124 measured at multiple oxygen concentrations in each chamber. Here we define net flux as both

125 background oxygen consumption and oxygen diffusion into the system. Flux at 100% air
126 saturation was measured with fully oxygenated Ringer's media. To measure net flux at lower
127 oxygen saturations, Ringer's media was deoxygenated to the desired level with nitrogen gas.
128 85% air saturation was chosen because cardiac MO_2 measurements over the six minutes typically
129 deplete oxygen to approximately 92% of air saturation but do not exceed 85%. To determine net
130 flux, oxygen concentration was measured in each chamber for 10 minutes and repeated in
131 triplicate.

132 Biological repeatability between chambers was tested with yeast at 28°C. A cell
133 suspension was prepared using 1 g of yeast per 10 ml of Ringer's media supplemented with 5
134 mM glucose. In each chamber, 100 μ l of the suspension was injected to account for variation in
135 chamber volume. Oxygen consumption was measured for 10 minutes in triplicate. MO_2 was
136 calculated as above to confirm there were no differences among chambers.

137 In order to assess metabolic consistency over the time-course of the experiment as well as
138 chamber repeatability, hearts from four fish were isolated, and glucose metabolism was assayed
139 in each chamber at 28°C. Hearts were randomly assigned to one of the four chambers and cycled
140 through each of them, with media exchange between each measurement. Three blank
141 measurements were run at the conclusion of the experiment. MO_2 was calculated as above and
142 then regressed against relative time of initial oxygen measurement per cycle to determine
143 metabolic rate consistency of heart tissue over time.

144 **Substrate Specific Metabolism**

145 For teleost ventricles, substrate specific metabolism was measured under four conditions:
146 1) 5 mM glucose, 2) fatty acids (1mM Palmitic acid conjugated to fatty-acid free bovine serum

147 albumin), 3) LKA: (5mM lactate, 5mM hydroxybutyrate, 5 mM ethyl acetoacetate, 0.1%
148 ethanol) and 4) non-glycolytic endogenous metabolism (no substrate). With the exception of
149 glucose measurements, glycolytic enzyme inhibitors (20 mM 2-deoxyglucose and 10 mM
150 iodoacetate) were added to all substrates to inhibit residual glycolytic activity. These substrate
151 concentrations are commonly used for assaying substrate metabolism in teleost ventricles [19–
152 22]. As outlined above, MO_2 was measured over six minutes for each substrate. Measurements
153 occurred at either 12°C or 28°C, the temperature at which the fish had been acclimated. After
154 measurement, hearts were placed in a media bath of the next substrate while media was
155 exchanged in each chamber. Substrate metabolism was measured in the above order for each
156 individual heart (Fig 1C).

157 **Fatty acid saponification**

158 Palmitic acid was conjugated to fatty acid-free bovine serum albumin (BSA) in order to
159 facilitate cellular uptake by the heart ventricles. A solution of 4 mM sodium palmitate and 150
160 mM NaCl was prepared and heated to 70°C until fully dissolved. A second solution of 0.68 mM
161 fatty-acid free BSA and 150 mM NaCl was prepared, sterile filtered, and warmed to 37 °C. Once
162 dissolved, equal parts hot palmitate solution was transferred in small increments to the BSA
163 solution, while stirring. The final solution was stirred for 1 hour at 37°C and stored at -20°C until
164 use. Conjugation produces a final concentration of 2 mM palmitate: 0.34 mM BSA (6:1
165 FA:BSA), which is at a 2X concentration of the final working solution used in metabolic
166 measurements.

167 **Statistical analysis**

168 Raw data processing and statistical analyses were conducted using RStudio 1.1.463.

169 Results

170 The HTMR is a simple custom design composed of a plexiglass water bath enclosing
171 micro-respiration chambers connected to a multi-channel oxygen meter (Fig 1A). For a 10-
172 chamber system, the approximate cost per chamber is \$1870, including the cost of the oxygen
173 meter and stir-plate. The full cost of the system is broken down in Table 1. The oxygen meter
174 itself represents the highest cost (~\$14,000 for ten inputs). followed by 1 ml glass chambers with
175 lid containing two injection ports (~\$300 each). Optical-fiber cables and sensor spots combined
176 are approximately \$95 each. A multi-place stir-plate is also necessary (~\$900).

177 **Table 1. Cost breakdown of HTMR system**

Description	Manufacturer	Product #	Cost
10-channel microfiber-optic oxygen meter	PreSens	300000008	\$13,966
O ₂ Sensor Spots	PreSens	200001526	\$26
Fiber optical cable	PreSens	200001731	\$69
Glass chamber	Unisense	MR-CH1	\$88
Glass chamber lid with two microinjection ports	Unisense	MR-CH INJECT LID	\$183

178

179 Methodological validation

180 Net flux was tested at multiple oxygen concentrations. In the chambers, background
181 activity was negligible ($2.038 \text{ pmol} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$), when flux was measured at 100% air saturation (Fig
182 2A). In contrast, the average oxygen consumption rate of *F. heteroclitus* ventricles with glucose

183 is 39.818 pmol*s⁻¹, thus flux at 100% air saturation is approximately 5%. Similarly, at 85% air
184 saturation (Fig 2B), flux was negligible (-0.324 pmol*s⁻¹), representing less than 1% of cardiac
185 glucose MO₂. In contrast, flux was somewhat high at 50% with an average flux -14.429 pmol*s⁻¹,
186 likely due to high leak (S1 Fig). However, for all three oxygen concentrations, flux was equal
187 among chambers by one-way ANOVA testing (p=0.696, p=0.643, p=0.733 at 100%, 85% and
188 50% air saturation, respectively).

189 **Fig 2. Chamber reproducibility in flux and metabolism.** Flux was measured at 100% (A), 85% (B) in all
190 four chambers of the HTMR. Additionally, MO₂ of a standardized yeast cell suspension, was measured in each
191 chamber (C). Oxygen consumption rates were calculated in pmol*s⁻¹ and are represented by the mean with
192 standard error bars (n=3 for each measurement). A one-way ANOVA was used for each measurement to test
193 that there were no differences among chambers.

194 To test biological repeatability among the chambers, yeast metabolism per chamber was
195 measured. Average MO₂ was 12.502 ± 1.907 pmol*s⁻¹, and there were no significant differences
196 in metabolism between each of the chambers (ANOVA, p = 0.538; Fig 2C). This MO₂ for yeast
197 is approximately 40-fold higher than the net flux at 85% air saturation. In addition to yeast
198 measurements, heart ventricles were measured across all four chambers over a 45-minute time
199 period to validate both repeatability among chambers and that ventricles can maintain consistent
200 metabolic activity over time. Among the four replicates, there was no significant difference in
201 metabolic rate when regressed against time (linear model, p = 0.657; Fig 3A). Additionally, there
202 were no significant differences in metabolic activity among the four chambers for each heart
203 (ANOVA, p = 0.363; Fig 3B).

204 **Fig 3. Cardiac glucose metabolism over time within the HTMR.** *F. heteroclitus* ventricles (n=4) in Ringer's
205 with glucose media were rotated through the chambers and measured at 28°C. (A) Linear regression of cardiac

206 glucose MO_2 for the four replicated time periods ($p=0.657$) (B) Average metabolic rate per chamber,
207 represented by the mean and standard error bars (ANOVA, $p = 0.164$).

208 **Substrate specific utilization**

209 Heart ventricles were measured at corresponding acclimation temperatures; thus,
210 temperature represents both the physiological effects of acclimation and the direct effect of
211 temperature on MO_2 . All hearts were metabolically active under each of the four substrate
212 conditions (Fig 4). For substrate specific metabolism, data was analyzed separately for
213 individuals measured at $12^\circ C$ or $28^\circ C$. There is a large inter-individual variation in substrate
214 specific metabolism, which reduces the statistical power to reject the null hypothesis of no
215 difference among substrates. To avoid this type II error, we apply paired t-tests that compare
216 substrates within each individual and use Bonferroni's test to correct for multiple tests [23].
217 Glucose, FA, and LKA metabolism were significantly greater than endogenous ($p=0.001$,
218 Bonferroni's corrected $p=0.006$); except FA at $12^\circ C$ ($p=0.03$; Bonferroni's corrected $p=0.18$; Fig
219 4A). Glucose metabolism was significantly greater than FA and LKA (Bonferroni's corrected
220 $p=0.006$) at both $12^\circ C$ and $28^\circ C$. FA metabolism was significantly greater than LKA metabolism
221 at $28^\circ C$ (Bonferroni's corrected $p=0.006$; Fig 4B) but not at $12^\circ C$ ($p=0.5$; Fig 4A).

222 **Fig 4: Heart ventricle substrate specific metabolism.** Substrate specific ventricle MO_2 as a percent of
223 glucose consumption, represented by the mean with standard error bars. Percent glucose metabolism is relative
224 to the mean glucose metabolism of all individuals measured at each temperature. Metabolism was measured at
225 $12^\circ C$ (A) and $28^\circ C$ (B). A paired t-test was used to compare substrate metabolism within individuals, with
226 Bonferroni test correction. Letters indicate significance levels between each substrate. At $12^\circ C$, $n = 95$. At
227 $28^\circ C$, $n = 105$.

228 The \log_{10} substrate specific MO_2 from Maine and Massachusetts acclimated to 12°C and
229 28°C determined here can be compared to MO_2 measured in Oleksiak *et. al* (2005) for Maine
230 individuals acclimated to 20°C using an ANCOVA with \log_{10} body mass and temperature as
231 linear covariates. There were no significant differences ($p = 0.55, 0.15, \text{ and } 0.85$ for glucose, FA
232 and LKA respectively) and the least squares fall within 5% of one another.

233 **Allometric scaling of metabolism**

234 Both body mass and heart ventricle mass were measured of each *F. heteroclitus*
235 individual measured at each temperature. The mean body mass of individuals measured at 12°C
236 and 28°C was 9.11 ± 2.87 g and 9.32 ± 2.90 g, respectively, and was not significantly different
237 between temperatures. Additionally, average ventricle masses were 0.013 ± 0.005 and $0.010 \pm$
238 0.004 for 12°C and 28°C, respectively and did not significantly differ between acclimation
239 temperatures. In *F. heteroclitus* body mass and heart mass are highly correlated (linear
240 regression at 12°C $R^2 = 0.74, p < 0.0001$; for 28°C, $R^2 = 0.66, p < 0.001$) thus, body mass was used
241 to correct for variation due to mass between individuals, as done previously [24]. Body mass
242 explained a significant amount of the variation (30-70%) in metabolism among individuals for
243 all conditions (Fig 5). Variance explained by body mass (R^2), was higher at 12°C than at 28°C
244 (Fig 5, S1Table). For glucose MO_2 , allometric scaling was identical (to the 2nd significant digit)
245 to previous determinations and nearly the same as in Jayasundara *et al.* (2015). Examining the
246 effect of temperature and substrates, allometric scaling coefficients (S1 Table), were between
247 0.65 to 1.29. While body mass contributed significantly to the variation between individuals,
248 there was no effect of sex on cardiac metabolism by linear regression at each substrate-
249 temperature combination. A three-way ANOVA including substrate, body mass and sex showed

250 no significant differences between males and females in cardiac metabolism at 12°C or 28°C (p
251 = 0.0963 and p= 0.4143, respectively).

252 **Fig 5. Allometric scaling relationship of substrate specific metabolism.** Regression of log MO₂ versus log body
253 mass with each substrate. Top panels represent fish measured at 12°C while bottom panels represent 28°C. Hearts
254 were measured as described in Fig 1 with glucose, fatty acids, LKA and endogenous metabolism. At 12°C, n= 105
255 and at 28°C n=95. For full data on regression slopes, see S1 Table.

256 **Discussion**

257 **Design**

258 The HTMR provides a simple custom design for measuring small biological samples that
259 allows higher throughput measurements at lower costs. While cost is still not negligible, the
260 system as described here, including the oxygen meter, sensors, stir control and chambers reduced
261 cost by up to 30% compared to other manufacturers. The system costs approximately 10-fold
262 less than the Agilent Seahorse and does not suffer from expensive disposable chambers and
263 reagents. Using the 10 channel PreSens meter, combined with the custom chamber design, cost
264 per chamber was approximately \$1870 which was 70% and 80% of the cost compared to
265 Unisense OPTO MicroOptode and Loligo OX11875 Witrox systems, respectively. The PreSens
266 oxygen meter was primarily chosen due to the flexibility of the 10-channel system. Similar
267 multi-channel systems such as the Strathkelvin Instrument use Clark electrodes, while PreSens
268 uses smaller, more precise optical oxygen sensors. Unlike Clark electrodes, the optical sensors
269 do not consume oxygen, are less expensive and have faster response times. Additionally, the
270 fiber optical cables, and oxygen meter can be used with other sensor designs for applications
271 such as whole animal metabolism [25]. This allows additional flexibility and is more

272 economical, as the instrument can be used for measuring both tissue-specific, whole animal
273 metabolism and numerous applications involved with oxygen measurement. Assuming a large
274 intended sample size, with four substrate measurements per heart, this instrumentation design
275 becomes more and more economical as you increase the number of chambers, making it useful
276 for large phenotypic analyses.

277 Certain limitations were encountered while developing the multi-chamber system that are
278 important to highlight. For the HTMR, several oxygen sensors were evaluated, but the sensor
279 spots were chosen for their ease of use and durability. They are long lasting and customizable in
280 their placement, allowing for repeated use. Other sensors, such as profiling oxygen microsensor
281 probes were tested; however, they were more fragile and cumbersome to use. Temperature
282 control is also essential for consistent and repeatable measurements. Temperature has a large
283 impact on oxygen solubility; thus, precise temperature control is necessary and was closely
284 regulated and monitored during measurements.

285 Chamber mixing was another important factor to control. Without thorough mixing from
286 the stir-bars, oxygen measurements are inconsistent and inaccurate. This is an advantage of this
287 system design over other multi-well plate style oxygen readers in which the media is unstirred
288 during measurement, but instead rely on mixing prior to measurement. Continuous stirring
289 allows for longer measurement periods. The size of the mesh that holds the tissue above the stir
290 bar was also optimized: very small mesh inhibits mixing, but too large mesh would not separate
291 the tissue from the stir bar in the bottom of the chamber. Additionally, nylon mesh was used over
292 steel mesh, as it did not as readily retain air bubbles.

293 Finally, leak was tested extensively. At 85% air saturation, background flux (O_2 use not
294 associated with biological sample) was small ($< 1 \text{ pmol} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$) compared to heart ventricle and

295 yeast MO_2 . To account for any amount of flux, blank measurements were taken throughout runs
296 and corrected for in each chamber, with no significant differences in leak among chambers.
297 Initially, the Unisense microinjection lids were chosen for flexibility; however, after completing
298 tests and measurements, the manufacturers released information that this particular model was
299 less airtight than other models. For future design construction, we recommend that researchers
300 use single-port lids with a sufficient path length to further minimize leak through diffusion.

301 **Methodological Validation**

302 The HTMR is sensitive to both substrates used to fuel heart ventricle metabolism and body
303 mass. HTMR determinations were very similar to previously published data (within 5%) [19].
304 Additionally, substrate specific patterns, with highest rates supported by glucose, agree with
305 previous measurements in *F. heteroclitus* [19]. Metabolism was unaffected by the time course
306 for measuring the four substrate conditions. Ventricles continue to contract over the duration of
307 the experiment and show no significant decline in metabolic activity (Fig 2A.). Importantly,
308 body mass accounted for a significant amount of variation in these individuals following an
309 allometric scaling pattern, and the log mass against log MO_2 linear regression has nearly identical
310 slopes to those determined by others [15,19]. These data suggest that the system is both precise
311 because the variation among samples did not obscure substrate or body mass effects and accurate
312 in that substrate specific metabolic rates are similar to previous measures [19] and have
313 allometric scaling coefficients very similar to published data [15].

314 **Conclusions**

315 The HTMR was designed to measure metabolism in many individuals, because of the large
316 individual variation and adaptive significance of the trait. We were specifically interested in

317 cardiac metabolism in *F. heteroclitus*, as this species shows large inter-individual variance in
318 cardiac metabolism and the mRNAs associated with this variance [19], and these patterns may
319 hold true for many species. To better understand the physiological and evolutionary importance
320 of this variance requires many individuals which the HTMR allows. For example, in this study,
321 metabolism was quantified in approximately 200 ventricles in only 10 days. Although here the
322 system is tested only with *F. heteroclitus*, this system could easily be extended to study other
323 types of tissue-specific metabolism in many individuals. The decreased cost and efficiency of the
324 design can have countless applications, allowing for high-throughput measurement of tissue
325 metabolism that can enhance our understanding of the adaptive importance of these traits.

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403

404 **Supporting information**

405 **S1 Fig. Chamber reproducibility in flux at 50% air saturation.**

406 Flux was measured at 50% air saturation in all four chambers of the HTMR. Oxygen
407 consumption rates were calculated in $\text{pmol}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ and are represented by the mean with standard
408 error bars (n=3 for each measurement). A one-way ANOVA was used to test variance between
409 chambers (p=0.733).

410 **S2 Fig. Chamber Leak over Time.**

411 Leak was tested at both high (A) and low (B) oxygen concentrations. Note the y-axes are
412 different values but are incrementally scaled the same.

413 **S1 Table.** Descriptive statistics of body mass regression analysis. Slope and y-intercept data of
 414 the allometric relationship of body mass with substrate specific metabolism derived from a linear
 415 model of the log of metabolic rate against the log of body mass per substrate by temperature.

	12°C				28°C			
	Glucose	FA	LKA	Endogenous	Glucose	FA	LKA	Endogenous
Slope (b)	0.7951	0.8698	0.7042	0.9339	0.6462	0.6702	1.2967	1.276
y-intercept (a)	0.7666	0.5374	0.7076	0.4484	0.9734	0.7955	-0.0004	-0.1046
R²	0.6882	0.4726	0.5478	0.7184	0.4876	0.4464	0.2995	0.4259
N	94	80	91	90	101	99	101	89
p-value								
Slope (b)	5.19E-25	1.89E-12	5.17E-17	6.04E-26	4.78E-16	4.21E-14	1.42E-13	2.86E-08
y-intercept (a)	1.65E-25	7.13E-07	2.19E-18	3.00E-11	6.48E-28	6.69E-19	0.998	0.609
Standard Error								
Slope (b)	0.0558	0.1041	0.0678	0.0623	0.0666	0.0758	0.1513	0.2092
y-intercept (a)	0.0528	0.0996	0.064	0.059	0.0634	0.0719	0.1452	0.2038
95% Confidence Interval								
Slope (b)	0.6835 to 0.9067	0.6617 to 1.0779	0.5686 to 0.8399	0.8092 to 1.0585	0.5130 to 0.7793	0.5187 to 0.8218	0.9941 to 1.5993	0.8575 to 1.6944
y-intercept (a)	0.6610 to 0.8723	0.3382 to 0.7366	0.5796 to 0.8356	0.3304 to 0.5664	0.8465 to 1.1003	0.6518 to 0.9392	-0.2908 to 0.2901	-0.5123 to 0.3030
Significance Between Slopes*	Endogenous	NS	Endogenous	Glucose LKA	LKA Endogenous	LKA Endogenous	Glucose FA	Glucose FA

416 * Comparisons are within a single temperature between substrates based upon 95% confidence intervals presented
 417 above.

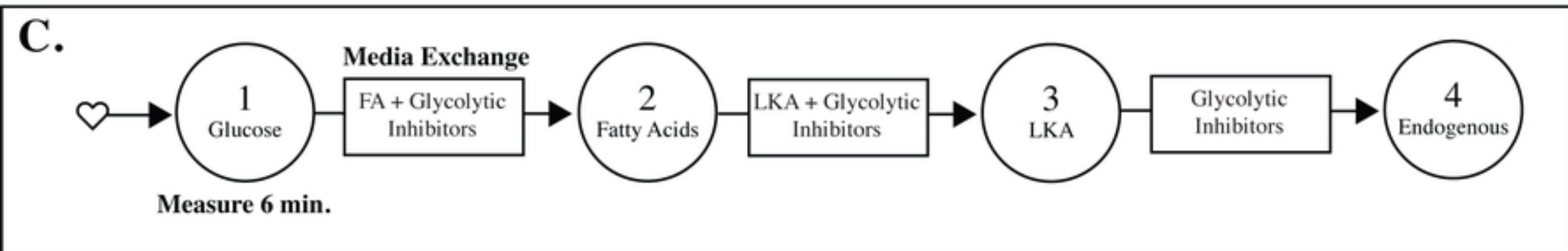
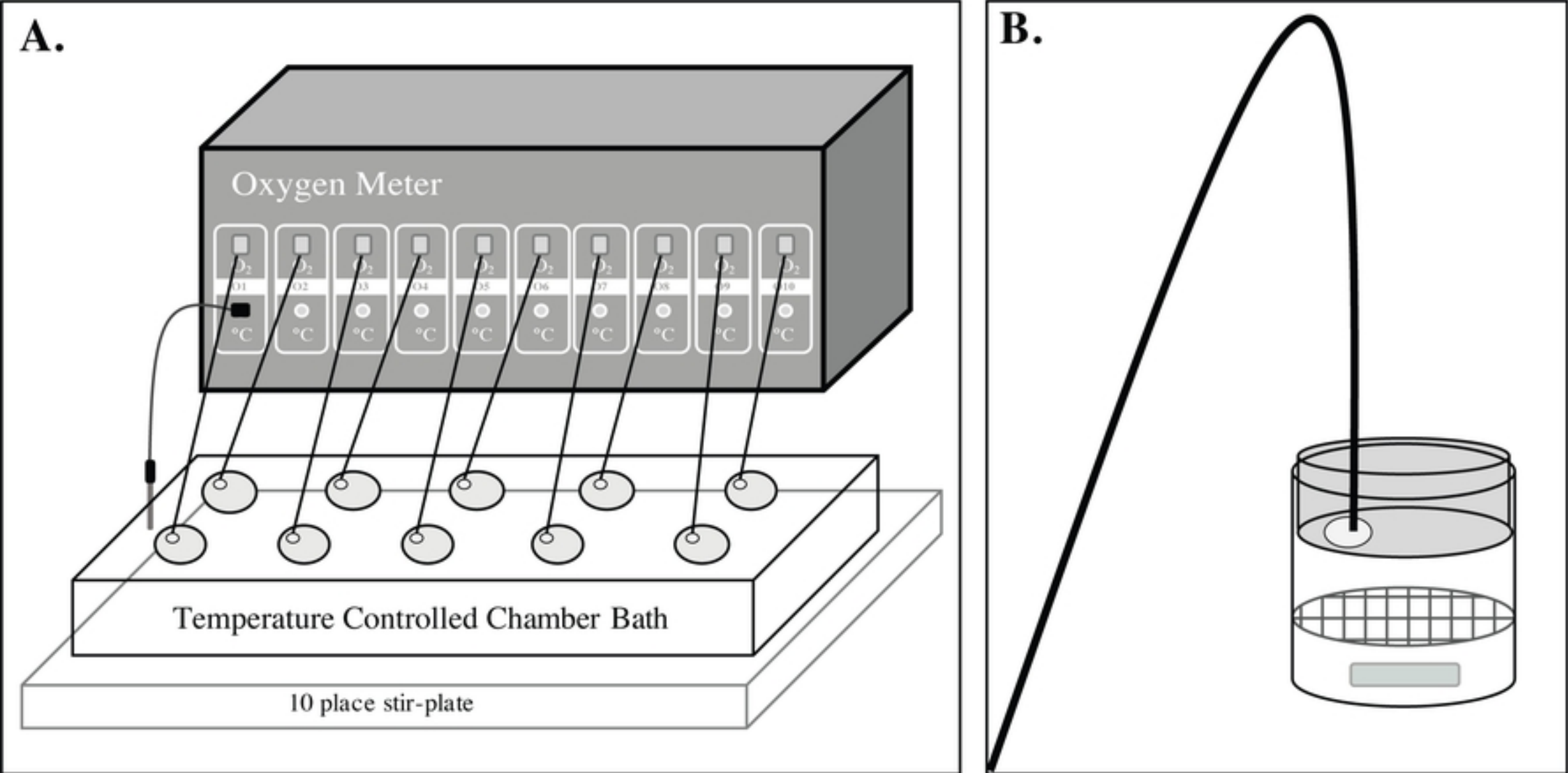


Fig1

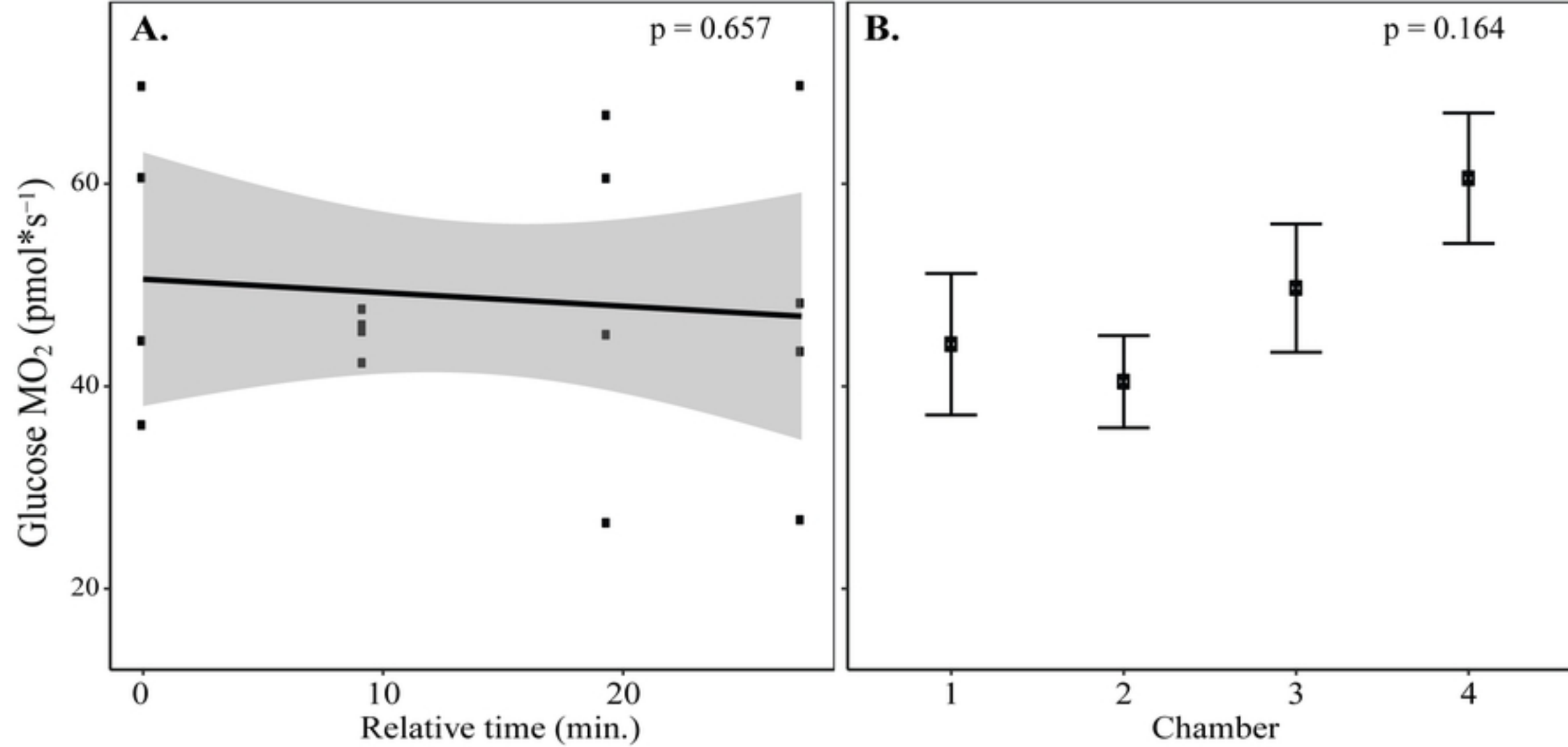


Fig3

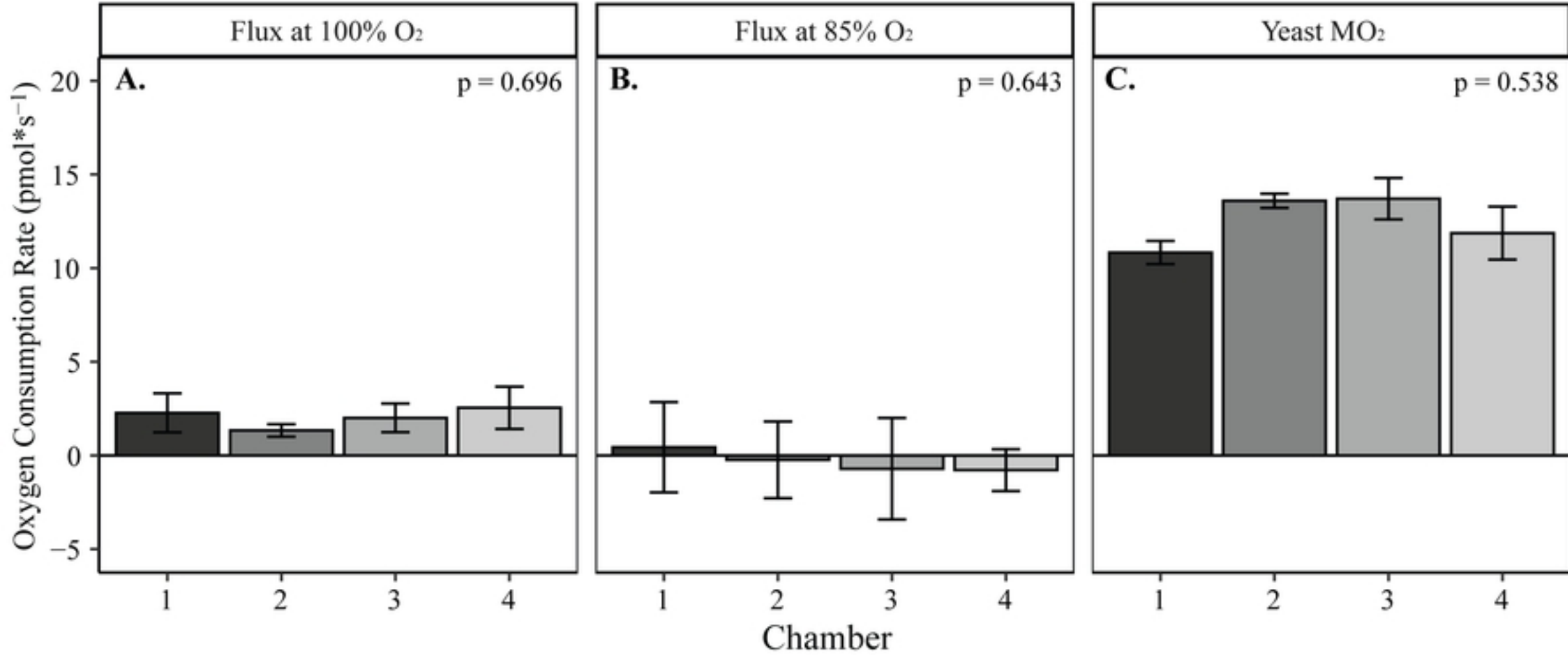


Fig2

Acclimation and Measurement Temperature

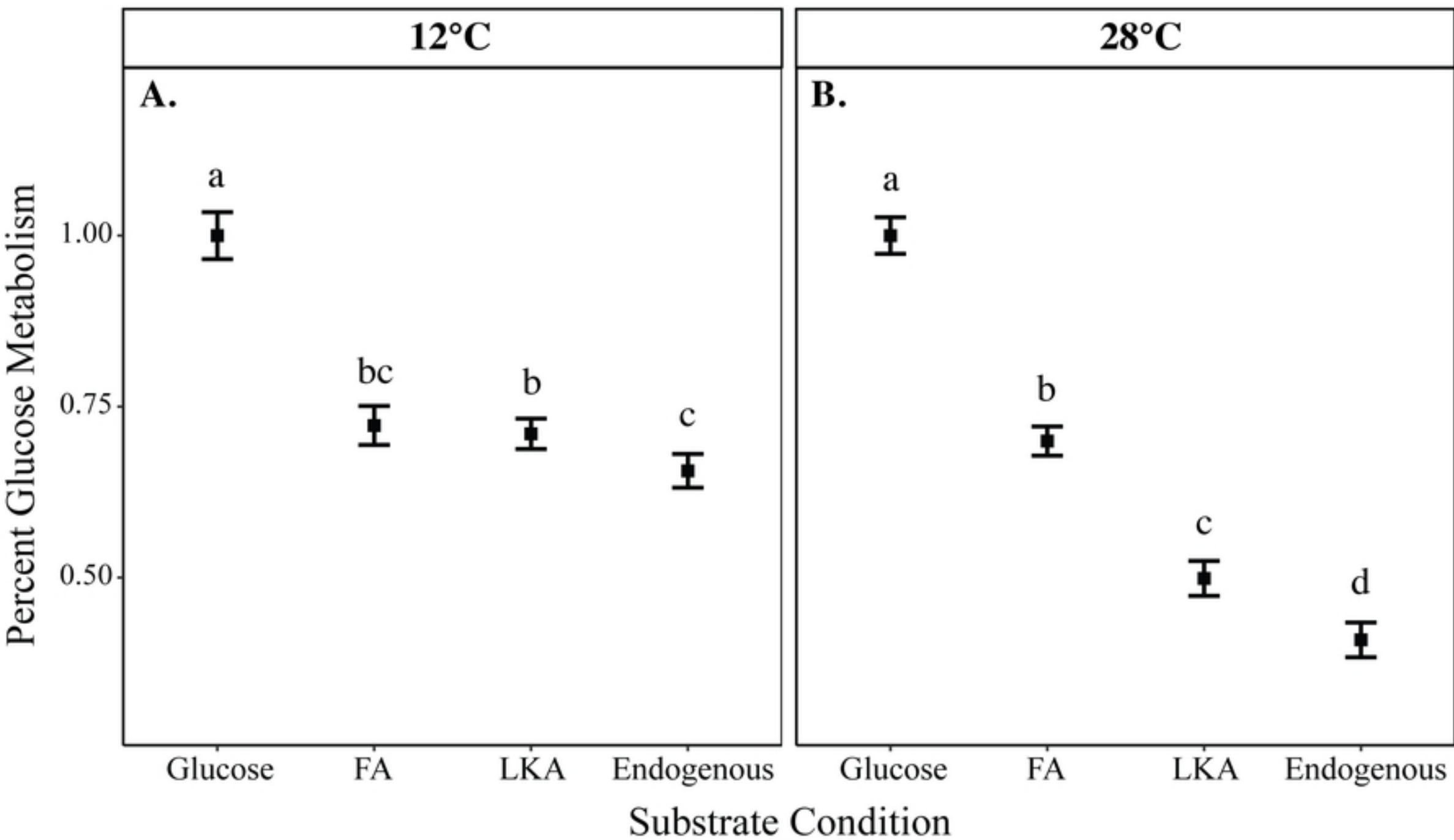


Fig4

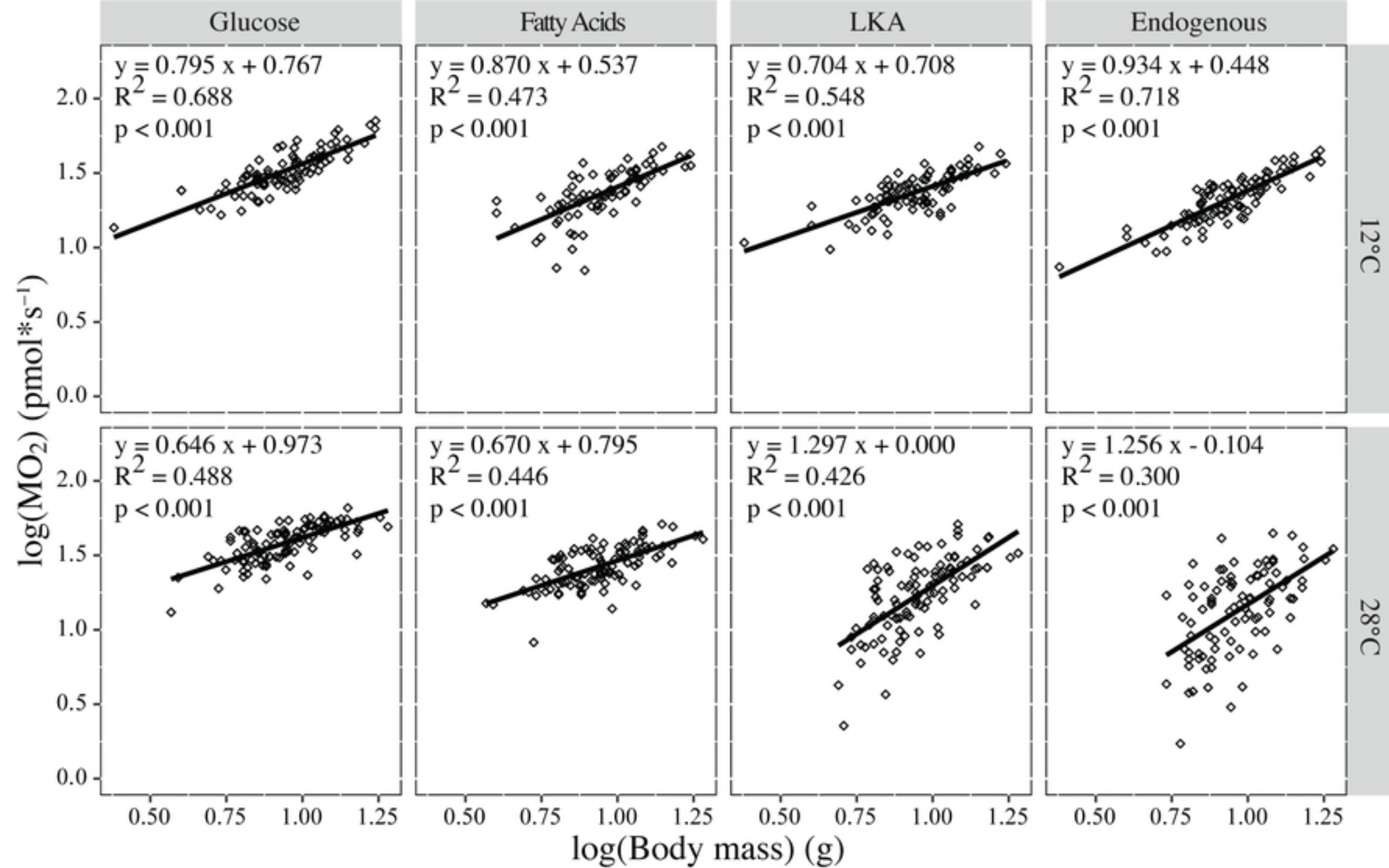
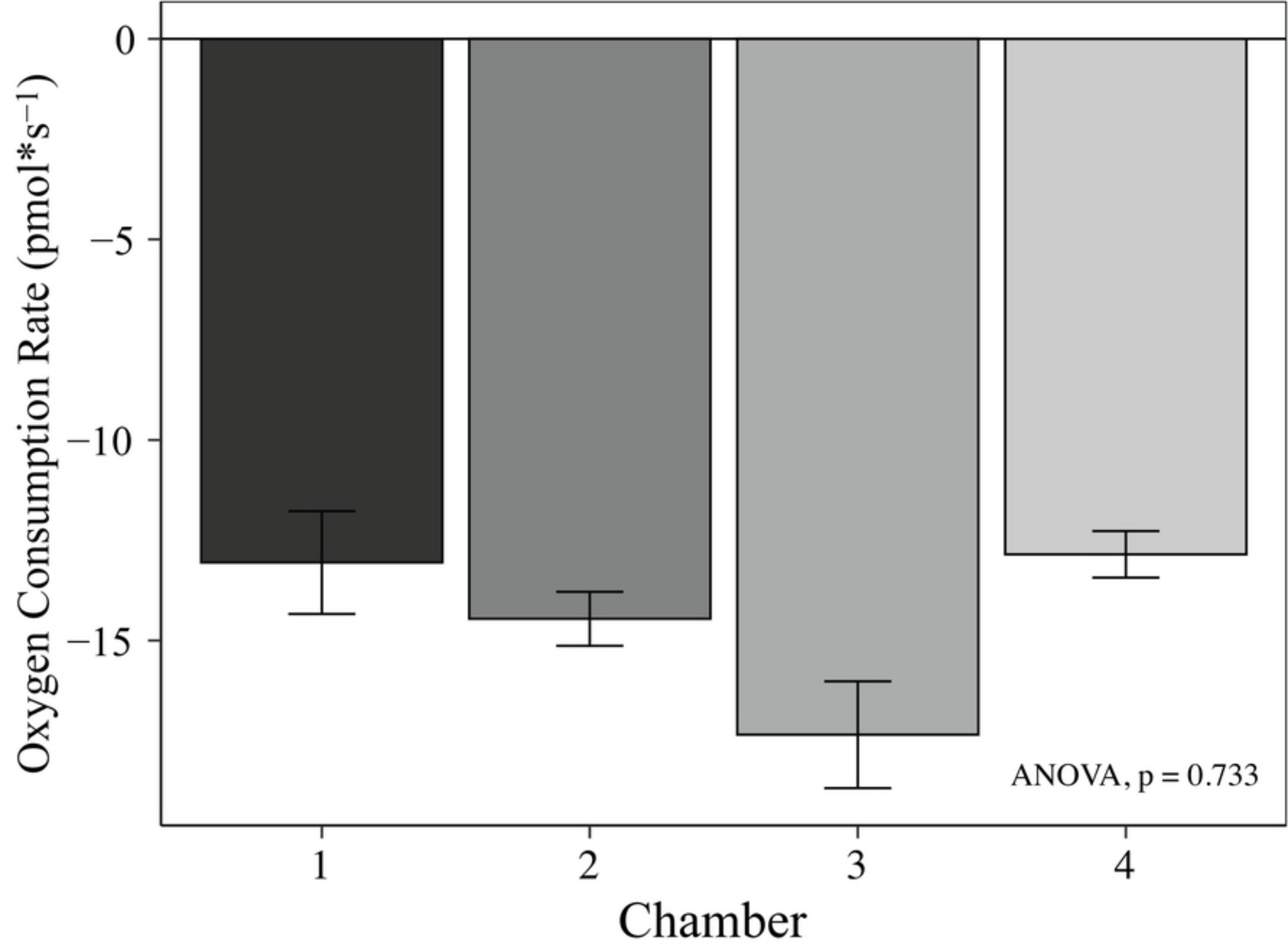


Fig5



S1 Fig

