

1 **Inbreeding reduces fitness of seed beetles under thermal**
2 **stress**

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14 **Keywords**

15 Climate change, inbreeding, fertility, *Callosobruchus maculatus*, mutation load, environmental stress

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30 **Abstract**

31 Human-induced environmental change can influence populations both at the global
32 level through climatic warming and at the local level through habitat fragmentation.
33 As populations become more isolated, they can suffer from high levels of inbreeding
34 which contributes to a reduction in fitness, termed inbreeding depression. However, it
35 is still unclear if this increase in homozygosity also results in a corresponding
36 increase in sensitivity to stressful conditions, which could intensify the already
37 detrimental effects of environmental warming. Here, in a fully factorial design, we
38 assessed the life-long impact of increased mutation load and elevated temperature
39 on key life history traits in the seed beetle, *Callosobruchus maculatus*. We found that
40 beetles raised at higher temperatures had far reduced fitness and survival than
41 beetles from control temperatures. Importantly, these negative effects were
42 exacerbated in inbred beetles as a result of increased mutation load, with further
43 detrimental effects manifesting on individual hatching probability and lifetime
44 reproductive success. These results reveal the harmful impact that increasing
45 temperature and likelihood of habitat fragmentation due to anthropogenetic changes
46 in environmental conditions could have on populations of organisms worldwide.

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57 **Introduction**

58 The Earth's average annual temperature has risen by approximately 0.85°C over the
59 past 100 years (Pereira *et al.*, 2012; Pachauri *et al.*, 2014) with the current rate of
60 warming nearly double that of previous decades (Rosenzweig *et al.*, 2008; Pereira *et al.*,
61 *et al.*, 2012; Pachauri *et al.*, 2014). One of the major contributors to this rise in annual
62 temperature is anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, which have caused more
63 than half of the observed increase in global average surface temperature from 1951
64 to 2010 (Pereira *et al.*, 2012; Pachauri *et al.*, 2014). This unprecedented rise in
65 temperature is already affecting natural systems (Pereira *et al.*, 2012; Pachauri *et al.*,
66 2014; Trisos *et al.*, 2020), driving many organisms to either adapt, move, or go
67 extinct (Holt, 1990; Pereira *et al.*, 2012; Trisos *et al.*, 2020).

68 In particular, a warmer and more unpredictable climate has forced many
69 organisms, from both terrestrial and marine environments, to shift geographic ranges,
70 alter seasonal activities or migration patterns, or change interactions with other
71 species (Barnett *et al.*, 2001; Root *et al.*, 2003). For instance, it is predicted that
72 many terrestrial and freshwater species will significantly alter range boundaries and
73 move polewards in response to anthropogenic warming as thermal tolerances are
74 likely to be exceeded nearer the equator (Hickling *et al.*, 2006; Thomas, 2010). This
75 shift in geographical range may also lead to corresponding changes in species
76 interactions within ecosystems. For instance, a review comprising data from 688
77 published studies found significant, multitrophic effects of global environmental
78 change acting on both mutualistic and antagonist interactions among species within
79 an ecosystem (Tylianakis *et al.*, 2008). Species interactions could also change as a
80 result of altered migration patterns. For example, in response to warmer winters,
81 several bird species have substantially reduced the migration distance between
82 breeding and overwintering grounds (Visser *et al.*, 2009).

83 A wealth of literature has also revealed how changes in climatic conditions
84 can have cascading effects on the life history and ability of an organism to adapt to
85 shifts in phenology (Davis & Shaw, 2001; Gottfried *et al.*, 2012; Norberg *et al.*, 2012;
86 Pearson *et al.*, 2014; Muñoz *et al.*, 2015; Seebacher *et al.*, 2015). Some species are
87 able to adapt sufficiently by undergoing rapid evolutionary change. For example, in
88 response to a five-year period of drought, the southern Californian plant species
89 *Brassica rapa* shifted to an earlier flowering time and increased the overall duration
90 of flowering. Subsequently, this change in flowering time then led to an increase in
91 individual fitness as a result of escaping the harsh conditions of late-season drought
92 (Franks & Weis, 2008). Other species, which have been unable to adapt as quickly,
93 have seen substantial population declines. For example, in several European bird
94 species, warmer temperatures have resulted in phenological mismatch between
95 breeding opportunities and food peaks (Visser *et al.*, 1998, 2012; Both *et al.*, 2006;
96 Jiguet *et al.*, 2007).

97 The ability of an organism to undergo rapid adaptation to novel ecological
98 conditions such as elevated temperature is reliant on the existence of standing
99 genetic variation within a population (Davis & Shaw, 2001; Orr & Betancourt, 2001;
100 Blows & Hoffmann, 2005; Willi *et al.*, 2006; Berger *et al.*, 2020). Therefore, a
101 reduction in genetic diversity could restrict the evolvability of populations to
102 environmental stochasticity. Climate warming and increased anthropogenic land use
103 change (Opdam & Wascher, 2004; Liao & Reed, 2009) have led to habitat
104 fragmentation (and habitat loss), which can induce genetic constraints on adaptation
105 by increasing the levels of inbreeding (Leimu *et al.*, 2006) as populations become
106 more isolated. This increase in genetic homozygosity within a population often results
107 in a significant reduction to survival and fertility through the expression of deleterious,
108 recessive mutations (Keller & Waller, 2002; Charlesworth & Willis, 2009), termed
109 inbreeding depression (Charlesworth & Charlesworth, 1987).

110 In the wild, inbreeding depression is both widespread and variable in
111 magnitude within and between populations (Keller & Waller, 2002; Huisman *et al.*,
112 2016). Importantly for conservation biologists this increase in mutation load
113 (Kirkpatrick & Jarne, 2000) and loss of genetic diversity (Gibbs, 2001) could
114 potentially exaggerate a population's sensitivity to environmental stress and increase
115 the likelihood of extinction (Bijlsma *et al.*, 1999; Fox *et al.*, 2006, 2011; Franke &
116 Fischer, 2015).

117 Inbred individuals may have a heightened sensitivity to increased
118 environmental stress, through factors such as temperature, competition, nutrition,
119 exposure to harmful chemicals, parasitism and desiccation. This sensitivity has been
120 investigated in several species to date (See Armbruster & Reed, 2005, Agrawal &
121 Whitlock, 2010 and Fox & Reed, 2011), including model systems such as the seed
122 beetle *Callosobruchus maculatus* (Fox *et al.*, 2006, 2011; Fox & Stillwell, 2009; Fox &
123 Reed, 2010) and the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster* (Yun & Agrawal, 2014).
124 However, crucially for conservation research, the link between thermal stress and
125 inbreeding depression remains unclear. In addition, a recent study by Yun and
126 Agrawal (2014) highlighted that much of the link between environmental stress and
127 inbreeding depression could be a result of density dependence (competition stress)
128 driving the interaction.

129 Despite this, a recent study has shown that increasing temperature results in
130 significantly more genome-wide *de novo* mutations (Berger *et al.*, 2020). However,
131 empirical support for a corresponding increase in inbreeding depression owing to the
132 accumulation of these thermal stress-induced mutations is varied. For instance, in a
133 series of studies, Fox *et al.* found that inbreeding depression on larval developmental
134 traits either increased (Fox & Reed, 2011) or decreased (Fox *et al.*, 2011) in
135 environments of high thermal stress. In particular, the latter experiment found that
136 inbred individuals were detrimentally affected at the more benign temperature of
137 20°C as opposed to the higher, elevated temperatures in the previous experiment

138 (Fox *et al.*, 2011). Not only are the results from these experiments seemingly
139 contradictory but they are also solely focused on measuring inbreeding depression
140 manifesting on larval developmental traits (survival and generation time) under
141 *developmental* stress.

142 Therefore, to fully understand the interaction between environmental stress
143 and inbreeding depression, it is necessary to study its effect on both survival and
144 fecundity. In addition, exposing individuals to stress across the entirety of their
145 lifespan, and not just the developmental period, would more accurately reflect
146 changes to environment predicted as a result of global climatic change. In light of this
147 and in order to address the paucity of data surrounding inbreeding depression and
148 thermal stress, we examined the impact of inbreeding and mutation load on the
149 lifespan and fitness of the model system, *C. maculatus*, when exposed to two
150 different *lifelong* rearing temperatures, one stressful and one benign.

151

152 **Methods**

153 *Study system*

154 The seed beetle (*C. maculatus*), native to Africa and Asia, is an agricultural pest that
155 infests legumes in warehouses and in the field. Females lay their eggs on the surface
156 of host seeds (Messina, 1991; Fox *et al.*, 2006). Eggs hatch 4–5 days later and
157 larvae burrow into the seed (Fox *et al.*, 2006). Larvae develop inside the bean, and
158 the beetles emerge as reproductively mature adults after around 23-27 days. *C.*
159 *maculatus* beetles are facultatively aphageous – that is, they are able to acquire all
160 the water and food resources they need from the bean during larval development and
161 do not require additional resources as adults (Messina & Slade, 1999). In part
162 because of the ease of laboratory rearing, *C. maculatus* has become a model
163 organism for the study of sex differences in life history evolution (Fox, 1994; Fox *et*

164 *al.*, 2006, 2007; Bilde *et al.*, 2009; Maklakov & Fricke, 2009; Fritzsche & Arnqvist,
165 2013).

166 The study population “South India USA” originated from an outbred stock
167 population that was collected from infested mung beans (*Vigna radiata*) in Tirunelveli,
168 India, in 1979. They were then moved by C. W. Fox to the University of Kentucky,
169 USA, then to Uppsala University in 1992, and finally to the American University of
170 Paris in 2015. The stock population is kept at aphagy (no food or water) in 1L jars
171 with 150g of mung beans, and approximately 250 newly hatched beetles are
172 transferred to new jars with fresh beans every 23-24 days on a continual basis. The
173 beetles are maintained in climate chambers at 29°C, 50% relative humidity and a
174 12:12 h light:dark cycle. These laboratory conditions closely resemble their natural
175 conditions, since their life history is adapted to a storage environment (Messina,
176 1991; Fox, 1994).

177

178 *Experimental groups*

179 From the base population, we created four experimental treatments that differed in
180 level of inbreeding as well as rearing temperature. The first step was to generate
181 “inbred” (I) beetles, which were the offspring of full sibling pairs. To do this, fertilized
182 beans were transferred from the stock jars to virgin chambers (aerated plastic culture
183 plates with a separate well for each individual) and monitored daily. Approximately 24
184 hours after hatch, one male and one female were randomly paired together and
185 placed in a 60-mm Petri dish with approximately 80 beans (N = 50). All adults were
186 removed 48 hours later, and larvae were left to develop.

187 Before the next generation hatched, 48 fertilized beans were moved from
188 each Petri dish to individually labelled 48-well virgin chamber plates, which were
189 monitored daily. Approximately 24 hours after hatch, one sister and one brother from
190 each 48-well plate were placed together into a 60-mm dish with approximately 70

191 beans (N = 50 inbred pairs). Meanwhile, we created 50 “outbred” (O) pairings
192 between randomly selected one-day-old males and females that had hatched out of
193 fertilized beans (isolated in virgin chambers) from the background population. All of
194 the inbred and outbred pairs were created on the same day.

195 Next, we created the four different treatment groups: outbred at the “control”
196 temperature of 29°C (OC), outbred at the “elevated” temperature of 36°C (OE),
197 inbred at 29°C (IC), and inbred at 36°C (IE). To do this, approximately 24 hours after
198 pairing the beetles as described above, ten fertilized beans from each petri (N = 50
199 inbred and 50 outbred dishes) were randomly selected and placed into two carefully
200 labeled virgin chambers, five beans per virgin chamber. We selected only those
201 beans that had eggs on them that appeared to be viable (clear, round and regularly
202 shaped, firmly attached to the bean). One of the plates was placed into a climate
203 chamber kept at the control temperature (29°C), and the other plate was placed in a
204 chamber set to “elevated” temperature (36°C). This higher temperature was selected
205 because it represents the upper limit of what the beetles can withstand without
206 devastating impacts on fertility or lifespan (Rogell *et al.*, 2014). Humidity and light:
207 dark cycles were kept the same for both chambers: 50% humidity and 12:12 h
208 light:dark. Virgin chambers were monitored daily.

209

210 *Daily fecundity and lifespan assays*

211 We monitored the virgin chambers every day and recorded the hatch date and sex of
212 all eclosed offspring from the four treatments. One day after hatch, we paired the
213 offspring with a one-day old beetle of the opposite sex from the background
214 population. Similar to previous steps of the experiment, virgin background beetles
215 were generated by putting fertilized beans from the control jars into virgin chambers,
216 and hatch was monitored daily. Pairs were moved at the same time every day from
217 one Petri dish to another for five days.

218 On the day of pairing (D0), the male and female were placed in a 60-mm Petri
219 with 65 beans. Females can lay up to 65 eggs per day (E. C. Berg, unpublished
220 data), and we wanted to provide enough beans so that no more than one egg would
221 be laid on each bean. On subsequent days (D1, D2, D3, and D4+), pairs were moved
222 to 35-mm Petri dishes with 30-50 beans (egg-laying declines with age). Once the
223 pairs were moved to the final dish in the series, they were monitored daily. If at any
224 point the female was found dead, pairs were obviously not transferred further. All
225 dead individuals were removed immediately, and dates of death were recorded.

226 To calculate daily fecundity, we recorded the number of eclosed offspring per
227 dish per target individual. Approximately 35 days after eggs were laid, we froze the
228 dishes to facilitate counting of eclosed offspring.

229

230 *Statistical analyses*

231 All analyses were performed using R v4.0.3 (R Core Team, 2019). Four distinct
232 measures of reproduction were analysed using the glmmTMB v1.0.2.9000 package
233 (Brooks *et al.*, 2017; Magnusson *et al.*, 2019) and contained the main effects of
234 “Breeding status” (inbred or outbred) and “Temperature regime” (control or elevated)
235 and the subsequent higher-order interaction. In addition, all models contained the
236 random effect of “Parent ID” in order to account for pseudoreplication of individuals
237 from the same parent. For age-specific reproduction, additional fixed effects of Day
238 and Day² and an additional random effect of “Individual ID” was added, nested within
239 “Parent ID”, in order to account for repeatedly measuring the same individual over
240 time.

241 Whilst the fixed and random effect structure remained similar for each
242 measure, the distributions of the responses differed slightly. 1) Hatching success was
243 a binary response, where individuals either hatched (1) or did not (0). 2) For both
244 age-specific reproduction and lifetime reproductive success (LRS), data was

245 analysed in a two-step process. Firstly, a full Poisson model and a Poisson model
246 with an observation level random effect was fitted and the residuals simulated using
247 the DHARMA v0.3.3.0 package (Hartig, 2020). If zero-inflation was detected within
248 these residuals, an additional zero-inflation component and a variety of error
249 distributions were fitted. Model selection was then performed to select the best fitting
250 error distribution and zero-inflation parameters for each measure, chosen as the
251 model with the lowest Akaike's information criterion (AIC). 3) The last measure was
252 individual fitness, or λ_{ind} , which represented the dominant eigenvalue of an age-
253 structured Leslie matrix (Leslie, 1945) calculated using the popbio v2.7 package
254 (Stubben & Milligan, 2007). For each matrix, the top row denoted age-specific fertility
255 whilst the subdiagonal represented survival probability from age t to $t+1$. 18-32 days
256 were also added to the start of the fertility schedule which corresponded to egg-adult
257 development time under the various breeding and temperature treatments. These
258 individual fitness values were then analysed with a similar model structure to above,
259 albeit with a Gaussian error structure.

260 For each measure, the overall effect of "Breeding status", "Temperature
261 regime", and the interaction between the two, was identified using the Anova function
262 from the car v3.0-10 package. In addition, data was either visualised using the
263 ggplot2 v3.3.3 package (Wickham, 2009) or on bootstrapped estimation plots from
264 the dabestR v0.3.0 package (Ho *et al.*, 2019). Estimated marginal means were
265 reported using the emmeans v1.5.5-1 package (Lenth *et al.*, 2019).

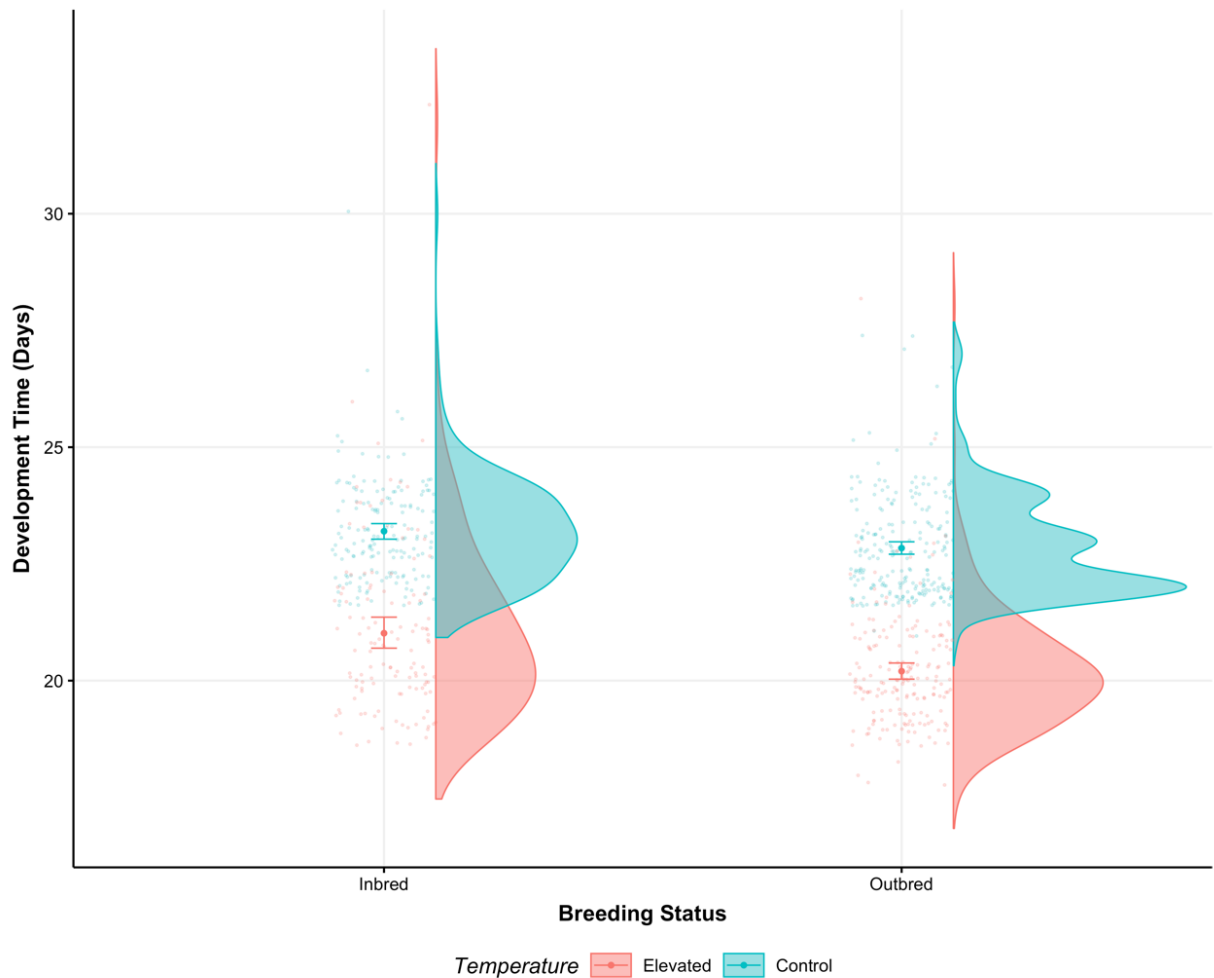
266 Lastly, we analysed how "Temperature regime" and "Breeding status"
267 influenced survival and lifespan. For this we used Mixed Effects Cox Proportional
268 Hazards Models from the coxme package v2.2-16 (Therneau, 2012) and fit similar
269 models to above. Hazard ratios were then visualised with forest plots created using
270 ggplot2.

271

272 **Results**

273 *Development Time*

274 Development was significantly influenced by breeding status, temperature regime
275 and the interaction between the two ($\chi^2(1) = 5.25, p = 0.022$, $\chi^2(1) = 480.75, p$
276 <0.001 and $\chi^2(1) = 6.49, p = 0.011$, respectively; Fig. 1). In particular, outbred
277 individuals had a significantly quicker development time in comparison to inbred
278 individuals (Outbred = 21.5 days; Inbred = 22.1 days; *Difference* = -0.56, $p <0.001$,
279 Fig. 1, Table S1A). As expected, individuals at elevated temperatures developed
280 quicker than those in the control regime (Control = 23.0 days; Elevated = 20.6 days;
281 *Difference* = -2.44, $p <0.001$, Fig. 1, Table S1A). Importantly, the detrimental effects
282 of increased mutation load were exacerbated at higher temperatures (OC (22.8 days)
283 – IC (23.2 days): *difference* = -0.348, $p = 0.02$; OE (20.2 days) – IE (21.1 days)
284 *difference* = -0.831, $p <0.001$; Fig 1, Table S1B/C).



285

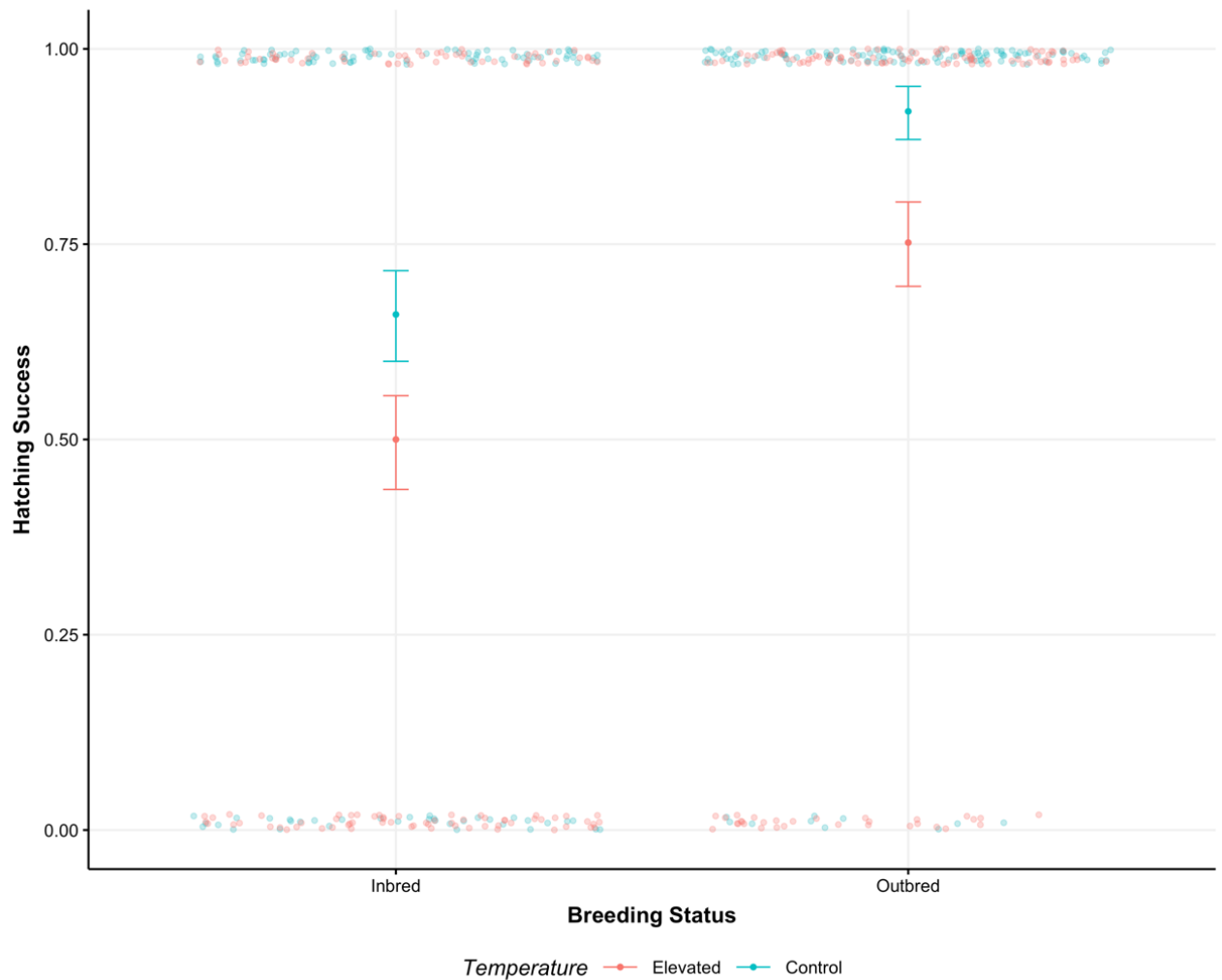
286 **Fig. 1** Development time of inbred and outbred populations at control (blue) and
287 elevated (red) temperatures. Points with error bars represent mean values with 95%
288 confidence intervals. Marginal violin plots show the relative distribution of raw data.

289

290 *Hatching Success*

291 Hatching success was significantly influenced by breeding status, temperature
292 regime and the interaction between the two ($\chi^2(1) = 35.94, p < 0.001, \chi^2 = 25.09, p$
293 $< 0.001, \chi^2(1) = 3.89$ and $p = 0.049$, respectively; Fig. 2). More specifically, hatching
294 success was higher in individuals that were outbred and had a decreased mutation
295 load (Outbred = 87%; Inbred = 59%; *Odds ratio* = 4.50, $p < 0.001$; Table S2A) or were
296 exposed to control temperatures and to a less stressful environment (Control = 84%;

297 Elevated = 66%; *Odds ratio* = 2.67, $p < 0.001$; Table S2A). This interaction resulted in
298 outbred individuals raised at control temperatures having the greatest hatching
299 success in comparison to other treatments (OC (94%) – OE (78%): *odds ratio* = 4.19,
300 $p < 0.001$; IE (50%): *odds ratio* = 14.64, $p < 0.001$; IC (68%): *odds ratio* = 6.91, p
301 < 0.001 ; Fig. 2; Table S2B/C).



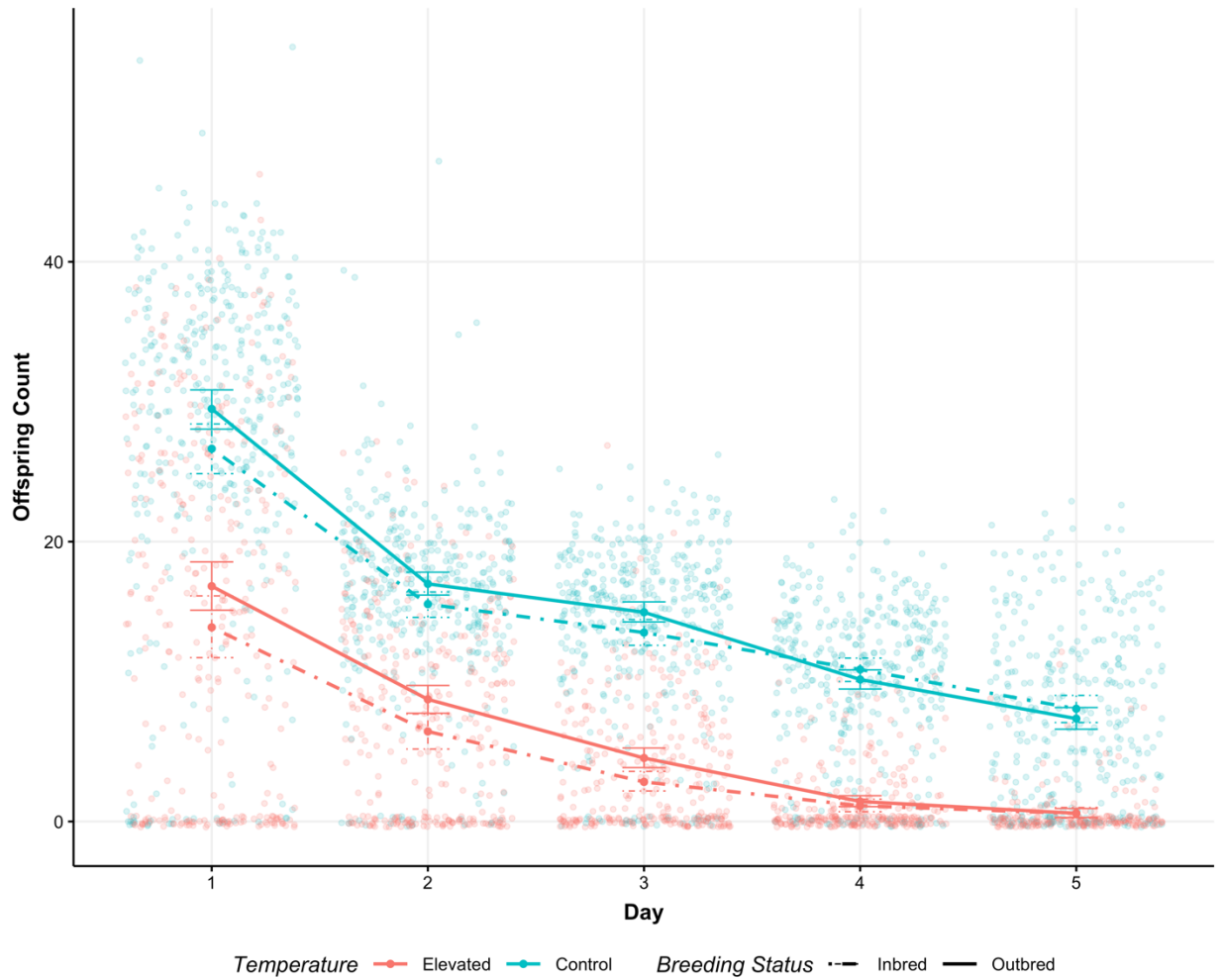
302

303 **Fig. 2** Hatching success in inbred and outbred populations at control (blue) and
304 elevated (red) temperatures. Points between 0 and 1 represent mean values with
305 95% confidence intervals.

306

307 *Reproduction*

308 Age-specific reproduction, LRS and λ_{ind} were all significantly influenced by
309 temperature (ASR: $\chi^2(1) = 5.16$, $p = 0.023$; LRS: $\chi^2(1) = 279.75$, $p < 0.001$; λ_{ind} : $\chi^2(1)$
310 $= 36.57$, $p < 0.001$; Fig 3-5, Table S3A-5C) but not breeding status, with no significant
311 difference detected between outbred and inbred individuals (ASR: $\chi^2(1) = 0.003$, $p =$
312 0.958 , LRS: $\chi^2(1) = 0.145$, $p = 0.703$, Table ; λ_{ind} : $\chi^2(1) = 0.988$, $p = 0.320$; Fig 3-5,
313 Table S3A-5C). In all cases, elevated temperature was associated with decreased
314 fitness (LRS: Control = 80.0; Elevated = 36.1, *Ratio* = 2.22, $p < 0.001$; λ_{ind} : Control =
315 1.13; Elevated = 0.88, *estimate* = 0.25, $p < 0.001$; Fig 4-5, Table S4A-5C).
316 Importantly, differences in LRS between inbred and outbred individuals only
317 manifested at elevated temperatures (LRS interaction: $\chi^2(1) = 4.08$, $p = 0.043$; Fig 4,
318 Table 4A-C), where the negative effects of higher temperatures were exacerbated by
319 increased mutation load (OC (80.7) – IC (79.6): *ratio* = 1.01, $p = 0.704$; OE (38.5) –
320 IE (32.7): *ratio* = 1.18, $p = 0.02$; Fig 4, Table 4A-C). No significant interaction
321 between temperature and breeding status was detected for ASR ($\chi^2(1) = 0.429$, $p =$
322 0.512) and λ_{ind} ($\chi^2(1) = 0.373$, $p = 0.541$; Fig 3/5, Table S3A-C/S5A-C).
323

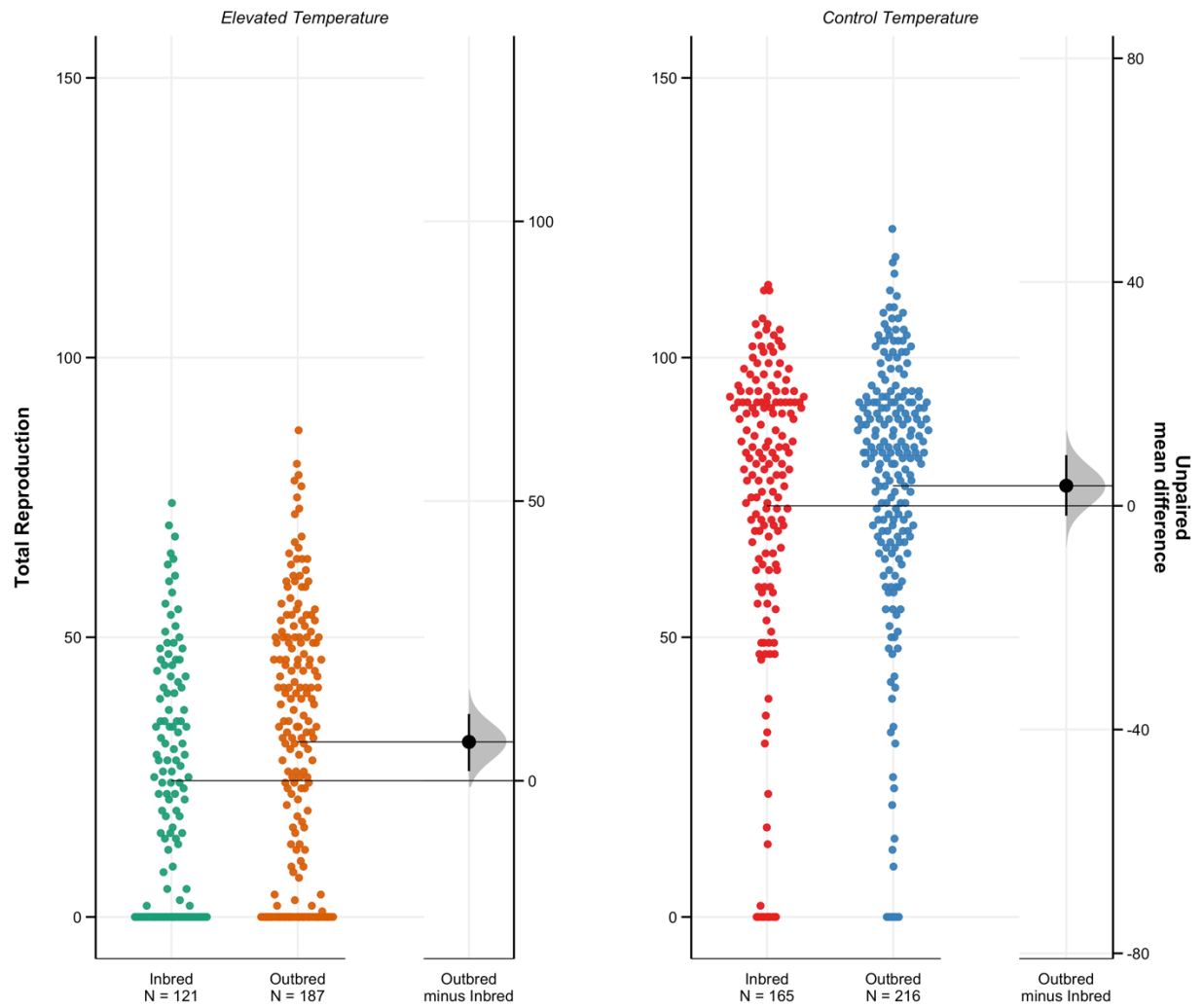


324

325 **Fig. 3** Age-specific reproduction of inbred (solid) or outbred (dot-dash) individuals in

326 elevated (red) or control (blue) temperatures. Points represent means with

327 accompanying 95% confidence intervals.

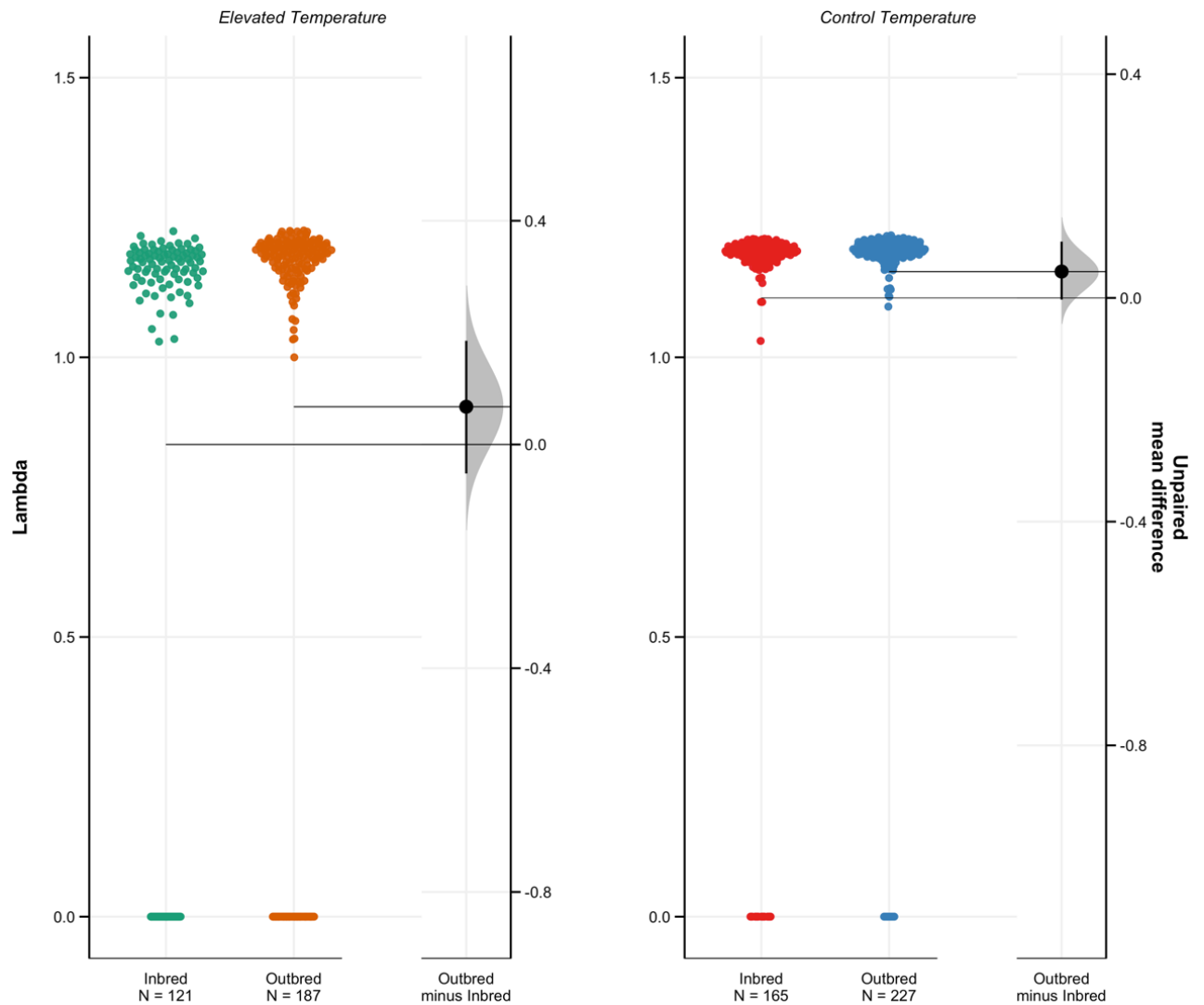


328

329 **Fig. 4** Total reproduction between inbred and outbred individuals at elevated (left)

330 and control (right) temperatures. Each panel shows the raw data and bootstrapped

331 mean differences between treatments with 95% confidence intervals.



332

333 **Fig. 5** Individual fitness of inbred and outbred individuals at elevated (left) and control
334 (right) temperatures. Each panel shows the raw data and bootstrapped mean
335 differences between treatments with 95% confidence intervals.

336

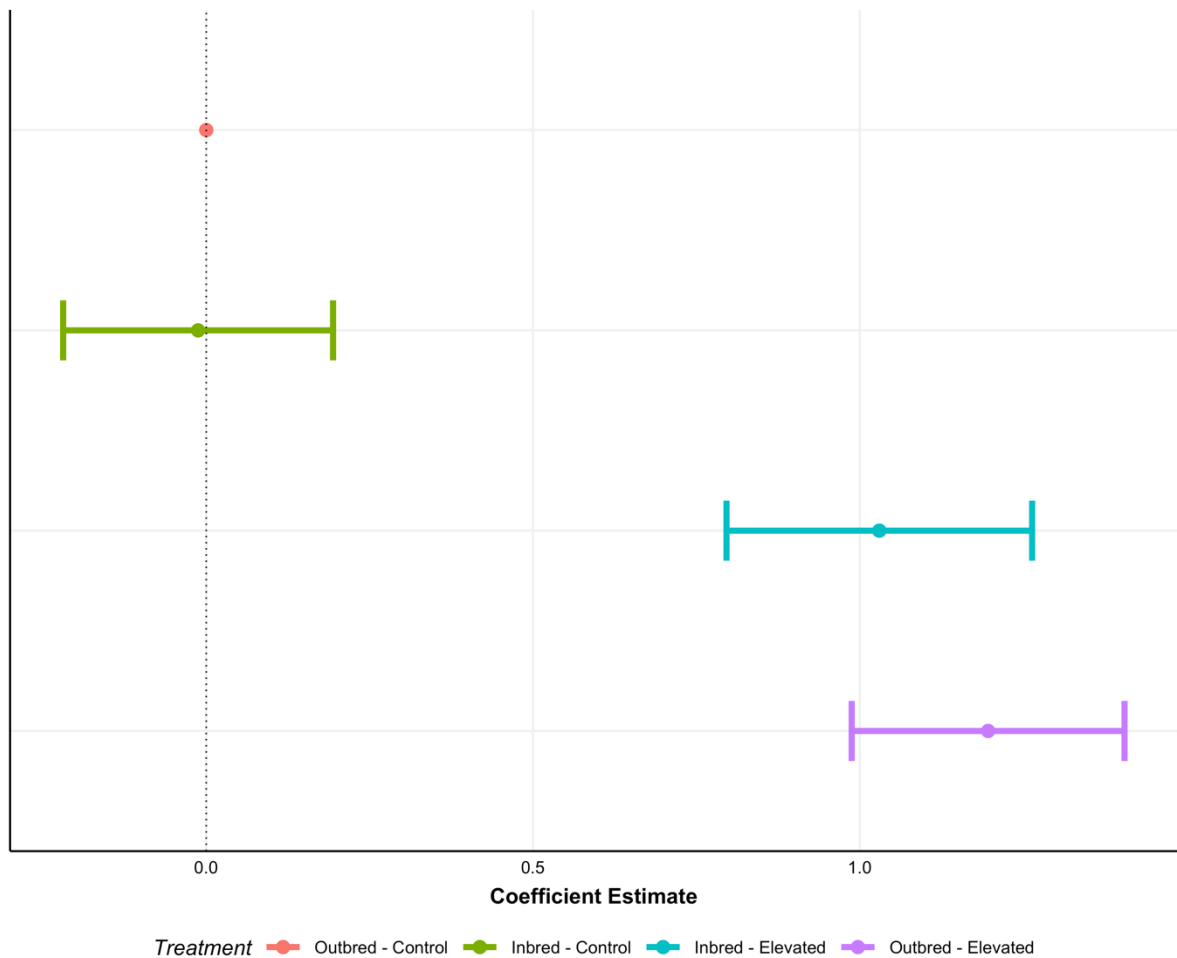
337 *Survival and Longevity*

338 Individual survival and lifespan were significantly affected by temperature regime χ^2
339 (1) = 183.03, $p < 0.001$) but not breeding status (χ^2 (1) = 0.981, $p = 0.322$) or the
340 interaction between the two (χ^2 (1) = 0.929, $p = 0.335$). Individuals raised at control
341 temperatures have reduced mortality risk and longer lifespans in comparison to those
342 from elevated temperatures regardless of breeding status (OC-IC: *estimate* = 0.012,

343 $p = 0.906$; OC-OE: *estimate* = -1.197, $p < 0.001$; OC-IE: *estimate* = -1.030, $p < 0.001$;

344 OE-IE: *estimate* = 0.167, $p = 0.169$; Fig. 6/7, Table S6A/B).

345



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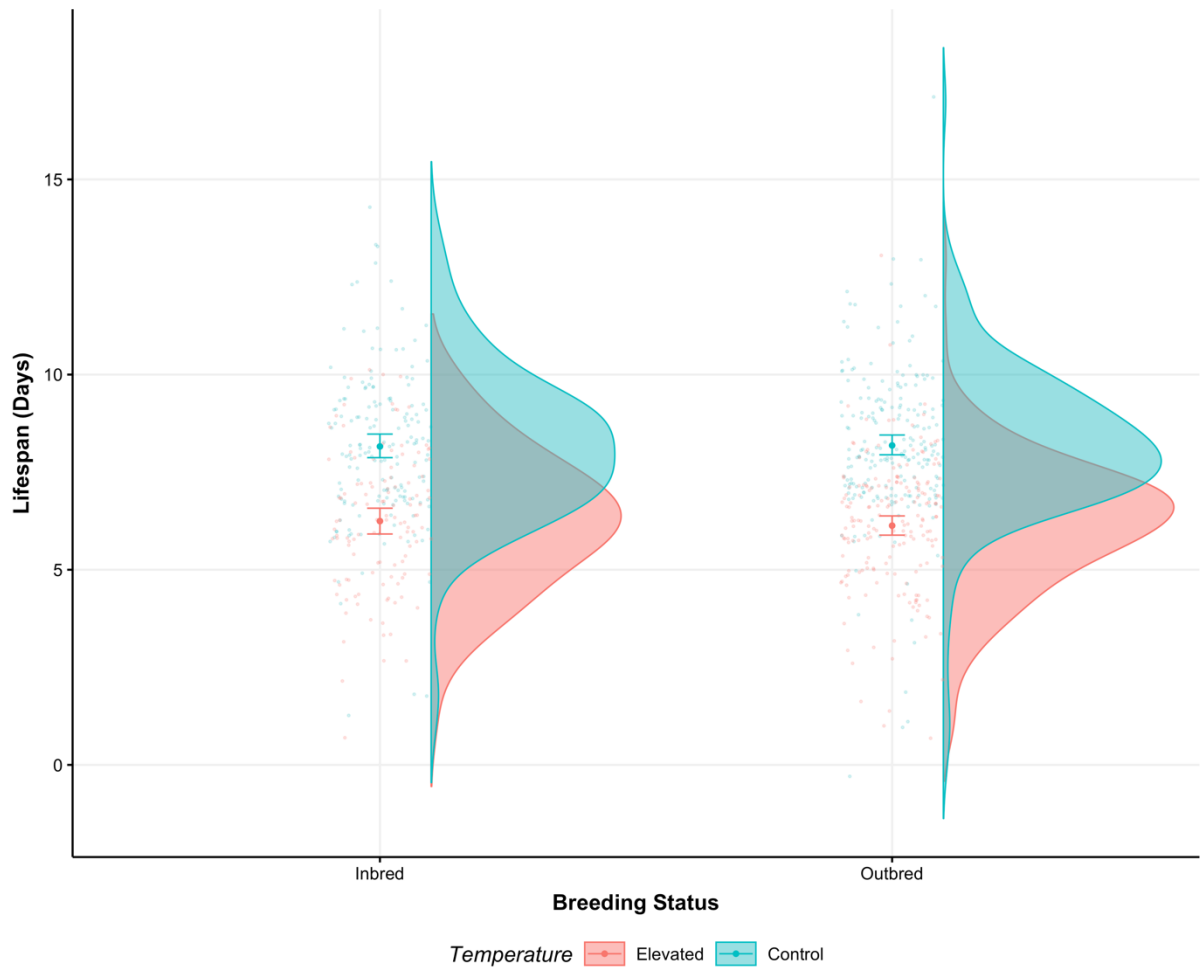
347 **Fig. 6** Survival coefficients from a mixed effects cox model with accompanying 95%

348 confidence intervals. Outbred-Control is the reference value at 0. Values to the left

349 reflect mortality decrease and increased longevity, values to the right represent a

350 mortality increase and decreased longevity.

351



352

353 **Fig. 7** Lifespan of inbred and outbred populations at control (blue) and elevated (red)

354 temperatures. Points with error bars represent mean values with 95% confidence

355 intervals. Marginal violin plots show the relative distribution of raw data.

356

357 **Discussion**

358 Our results provide compelling evidence to suggest that increased mutation load

359 from inbreeding exacerbates the negative effects of elevated temperature on various

360 measures and components of fitness. Specifically, we found that increasing

361 temperature and thus exposure to environmental stress had large negative effects on

362 five out of the six measured life history traits. This result alone is unsurprising, as

363 previous work in the same species of beetle has reported similar detrimental effects

364 of high temperature, including reduced reproductive fitness and longevity (Rogell et

365 *al.*, 2014; Berger *et al.*, 2017), but also on the increase of genome-wide *de novo*
366 mutations (Berger *et al.*, 2020). Only on development time was the effect of
367 increasing temperature less obvious. On one hand, faster development time with
368 elevated temperature could be seen as adaptive, as earlier breeding positively
369 influences rate-sensitive fitness (Sibly & Calow, 1986). Under some circumstances,
370 this could compensate for reduced LRS by increasing λ_{ind} . However, as this
371 measure (λ_{ind}) is entirely dependent on the amount of pre-reproductive time prior to
372 fertility, the variation in development time due to temperature (ranging from 18-32
373 days) has little impact on the individual fitness value calculated (see Green & Painter,
374 1975). This is perhaps one reason why we do not see as great a difference in λ_{ind} as
375 with LRS. On the other hand, faster development could also be maladaptive,
376 particularly if the increased growth rate results in higher mortality and reduced body
377 size, which will contribute to reduced fecundity (Sibly *et al.*, 1985; Sibly & Calow,
378 1986). Only when a species becomes adapted to a particular thermal regime (Rogell
379 *et al.*, 2014) or if the environment between parents and offspring is predictable (Sibly
380 & Calow, 1986; Lind *et al.*, 2020) do the harmful effects of increasing temperature
381 begin to subside. However, in contrast to previous work (Yun & Agrawal, 2014), we
382 found that thermal stress, in the absence of any form of density dependence, was
383 sufficient in magnitude to result in increased inbreeding depression on development
384 time, hatching probability and, lifetime reproductive success.

385 This result is similar in trend to the positive correlation between
386 developmental stress and larval mortality found in several studies in the same
387 organism (Fox & Reed, 2011; Springer *et al.*, 2020). Similarly, a recent study by
388 Springer *et al.* (2020) found a negative effect on female mass, a proxy for female
389 fecundity; however, this was only present within an interaction with another variable,
390 beetle host plant. Nevertheless, in this study we show that *lifelong* stress (i.e. not
391 simply confined to the developmental period) can significantly and detrimentally

392 influence fitness through a reduction in lifetime reproductive success in addition to
393 increasing larval mortality. In addition, we also present another form of inbreeding-
394 environment interaction, in which the control temperature of 29°C also produced
395 significantly reduced hatching probability in inbred individuals which mirrors results
396 from previous work (Fox *et al.*, 2011).

397 Why such inbreeding-environment interactions should produce deleterious
398 effects on fitness requires an explanation. In a series of elegant studies, Kristensen
399 *et al.* (2002, 2005, 2006) found that inbred *Drosophila* flies were disproportionately
400 expressing genes relating to metabolism and stress response in comparison to
401 outbred individuals (Kristensen *et al.*, 2005). In particular, they found that the heat-
402 shock protein (*Hsp70*) was expressed at higher levels in benign laboratory conditions
403 when individuals were inbred. Importantly, the expression of *Hsp70* is associated
404 with severe and detrimental costs to fitness (Krebs & Feder, 1997; Kristensen *et al.*,
405 2002). Additionally, when inbred flies were exposed to environmental stress through
406 increasing temperature, they again found differential expression of several important
407 metabolic genes in a synergistic fashion (Kristensen *et al.*, 2006). Taken together,
408 these results, coupled with previous research, suggests that the inbred lines here,
409 which were exposed to both genetic and environmental stress, could be expressing a
410 wide variety of genes that ultimately are contributing to reduced fitness. Future
411 research should focus on understanding whether the same candidate loci found in
412 *Drosophila* are expressed in *C. maculatus* when exposed to both environmental and
413 genetic stress.

414 The exacerbated negative effects we show here, despite the exposure to the
415 reduced environmental stress of the laboratory (Hedrick & Kalinowski, 2000),
416 highlights the severe and detrimental impact that global climatic changes coupled
417 with habitat fragmentation could have on the survivability of small populations. It is
418 therefore critically important for future conservation research to study these

419 inbreeding-stress interactions in more complex environments using natural
420 populations and with a wide variety of stressors.

421

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426

427 **Data Accessibility Statement**

428 Data will be deposited in Dryad.

429

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