Effects of early and late life environments on ageing

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Abstract

Early and late life environments can interact in complex ways to influence the fitness

of individuals. Most studies investigating effects of the environment on fitness focus on

environments experienced and traits expressed at a single point in an organism's life.

However, environments vary with time, thus the environments organisms experience at

different ages may interact to affect how traits change throughout life. Here, we test whether

thermal stress experienced during development leads individuals to cope better with thermal

stress as adults. We manipulated temperature during both development and adulthood and

measured a range of life-history traits, including senescence, in male and female seed beetles,

Callosobruchus maculatus. We found that favourable developmental conditions increased

reproductive performance of females (i.e. silver-spoon effects). In contrast, non-reproductive

traits such as lifespan and survival senescence were only affected by adult environments- high

adult temperatures decreased longevity and survival. Additionally, developmental and adult

environments interacted to affect age-dependent changes in male weight. Overall, our results

show that effects of early and late environments can be both sex- and trait- specific, and that a

full understanding of how environments interact to affect fitness and ageing requires the

integrated study of conditions experienced during different stages of ontogeny.

Keywords: silver-spoon effect, matching environments, phenotypic plasticity, beneficial

acclimation, *Callosobruchus maculatus*, senescence.

Introduction

Early life conditions can act directly on developing phenotypes and in consequence

can have both immediate and long-lasting effects on a range of fitness-related traits

(Frankenhuis et al, 2019, van de Pol, Bruinzeel et al, 2006). For example, various studies (e.g.

Descamps et al, 2008; Klepsatel et al, 2019, 2020; Madsen & Shine, 2000; Muller et al, 2016;

Sanghvi et al, 2021; Wong & Kolliker, 2014) have shown that developmental environments

can create "silver-spoon effects" (Grafen, 1988; Monaghan, 2008), where individuals who

experience a favourable early environment have increased fitness and performance as adults,

compared to individuals who experience poor developmental conditions.

The effects of early life environments on fitness are also expected to depend on

conditions experienced later in life (Gluckman et al, 2005, Monaghan, 2008). It has been

suggested that individuals experiencing certain conditions during development may adjust

their phenotype to improve performance when exposed to the same conditions as adults

("environmental matching" or predictive adaptive response). Under this scenario, early life

conditions shape the phenotype in response to predicted adult conditions, so that fitness is

optimised when environments experienced during development and adulthood match

(Bateson et al, 2014; Beaman et al, 2016; Cleal et al, 2007; Hayward & Lummaa, 2013). A

special case of the environmental matching hypothesis, the "beneficial acclimation" response,

(Huey et al, 1999; Woods & Harrison, 2002), deals explicitly with stressful developmental

and adult temperatures. It predicts that stressful temperatures experienced during development

acclimate individuals so they perform better when they also experience these stressful

temperatures as adults, compared to individuals who only experience stress as adults and not

during development (e.g. Bahnrdoff et al, 2016; Deere & Chown, 2006; Kellermann et al,

2017; Kristensen, 2008; Scharf et al, 2015; Scott & Johnston, 2012). Another hypothesis

which predicts that adult environments are important for determining later life fitness

consequences of early life environments is the "environmental saturation" hypothesis

(Engqvist & Reinhold 2016; Pigeon et al, 2019). This hypothesis predicts that in favourable

adult environments, all individuals will perform well regardless of their developmental

environment, and likewise, that all individuals will perform poorly in bad adult environments.

Thus, effects of developmental environments on adult phenotypes are only evident in

intermediate adult environments (e.g. Pigeon et al, 2019).

Empirical evidence from studies looking at how early and late life environments

interact to affect adult traits is not clear cut, and indicates that the various hypotheses

employed to explain the relationships between phenotypic and environmental variation are not

mutually exclusive (Pigeon et al, 2019). For instance, some studies find evidence for

beneficial environmental matching (Duxbury & Chapman, 2020), while others find other

types of interactive (Briga et al, 2017), or only additive (Kleinteich et al, 2015) effects of

exposure to poor conditions during both early and late life. Additional complexity to the

tangled interactions between early and late life conditions arises from the fact that responses

to environmental stimuli can be trait- and sex-dependent (e.g. Duxbury & Chapman, 2020;

Helle et al, 2012; Krause et al, 2017; Min et al, 2020; Pigeon et al, 2019; Santos et al, 2021;

Scharf, Braf et al, 2015; Stillwell & Fox, 2005). For example, in cichlids reproductive rate is

determined only by nutrition during development, while adult growth rate is determined only

by nutrition in the adult stage, and clutch size is determined by both developmental and adult

life nutrition (Taborsky, 2006). Differences in the way the environment affects different traits

may result from energetic and physiological constraints acting on life-history traits (Partridge

and Silby 1991), as well as the necessity to allocate resources across traits. Furthermore,

differences between males and females in their life-histories and mating strategies mean that

selection might favour males and females to respond differently to the same environment

(Ceballos & Valenzuela 2011; Maklakov et al, 2009; Stillwell et al. 2010). For example, in

seed beetles, males and females respond differently to the presence and density of competitors

during the larval stage, leading to sex-specific differences in a variety of life-history traits

(Iglesias-Carrasco et al 2020; Sanghvi et al, 2021).

Research shows that, in addition to influencing the absolute expression of traits, the

environment can also influence how traits change over an individual's life, and specifically

how they deteriorate with advancing age (i.e. how they senesce) (Balbontin & Moller, 2015;

Nussey et al, 2007). Senescence occurs as a consequence of relaxed selection on fitness-

related traits in older individuals due to trade-offs between life-history components (Rose &

Charlesworth, 2002; Stearns, 1989). However, the rate at which individuals age may depend

on a range of factors such as their sex and external environment (e.g. Sanghvi et al, 2021).

While there is some support for silver-spoon effects on ageing, with favourable

developmental conditions leading to slower reproductive and survival senescence (Hayward,

Wilson et al, 2013, Cooper and Kruuk, 2018, Sanghvi et al, 2021), an alternative hypothesis

suggest that individuals experiencing good environments may senesce faster due to increased

investment in growth and reproduction when young (Adler et al, 2016; Hooper et al 2017;

Hunt et al, 2004; Spagopoulou et al, 2020). Additionally, senescence can also depend on the

interactions between developmental and adult environments, as seen in studies which test for

compensatory growth. Here, organisms which experience poor developmental environments

increase their investment in growth in favourable adult environments, although at the cost of

increased mortality (Dmitriew & Rowe, 2007; Metcalfe & Monaghan, 2001). While recent

research has begun investigating how interactions between developmental and adult

environments affect survival and reproductive senescence (Duxbury & Chapman, 2020; Min

et al, 2021; Zajitschek et al, 2009), the results do not clearly support one hypothesis (silver-

spoon, matching environment, or environmental saturation). Additionally, the age-dependent

changes in traits measured are restricted to survival and reproduction, and do not consider

other traits which can also change with age and influence fitness.

Here we test whether interactions between heat stress experienced during

development and adulthood, if present, are beneficial or not, on various life-history traits,

including senescence, in male and female seed beetles (*Callosobruchus maculatus*).

Temperature is known to be crucial in determining life-history traits, including senescence,

and physiology of ectotherms (Zuo et al, 2012) and is often manipulated in studies which test

for silver-spoon effects (e.g. Scharf, Braf et al, 2015), matching environments (e.g. Min et al,

2021), and beneficial acclimation (e.g. Leroi et al, 1994), making it ideal for our experiment.

In seed beetles, hot temperatures have been shown to be stressful to survival and reproduction

(Fox et al, 2011; Stillwell & Fox, 2005; Stillwell et al, 2007; Vasudeva et al, 2014). However,

it is unknown how unfavourable temperatures at different life stages interact with each other

to affect senescence, and whether these interactions can be beneficial.

Methods

Origin and maintenance of study species

Our stock population of *C. maculatus* was sourced in 2017 from stock kept at the

University of Western Australia (see Dougherty et al, 2017 for maintenance details). Once in

our lab, stock was maintained for 14-16 generations on cowpea beans (*Vigna unguiculata*) at

24°C - 28°C and 20% - 40% relative humidity. Neither stock nor experimental beetles were

provided food or water as adults because they do no need to feed or drink as adults in order to

survive and reproduce (Beck & Blumer, 2014).

Experimental design

To test the effects of developmental and adult temperatures on life-history traits and

senescence, we used a split-brood full-sib 2x2 factorial design, in which beetles were assigned

to either 'ancestral' temperatures (23°C - 25 °C) or 'hot' temperatures (33°C - 36°C) during

development, and then ancestral or hot temperatures as adults. The ancestral temperature was

at the lower end of the temperature range in which the stock had been raised for over 14-16

generations. The hot temperature was a novel and unfavourable environment for this

population.

To breed experimental beetles, we collected 86 male and 86 female virgin seed beetles

from 150 isolated stock beans, within an hour from when they emerged. Virgin females were

randomly paired with virgin males for mating and then given 20-30 beans on which to lay

eggs (at 24°C). The beans were checked for eggs every two hours, and those with a single egg

laid on them were transferred to individual Eppendorf tubes. If a bean had more than one egg

laid on it, the extra eggs were scraped off. Eppendorf tubes containing a bean with an egg,

were then randomly assigned to a hot (33°C - 36°C) or ancestral (23°C - 25 °C) developmental

temperature for incubation until adults emerged.

On the day of emergence, beetles were weighed (to the nearest 0.01 mg) using a

Sartorius Cubis microbalance, and their developmental time (in days) and sex were recorded.

Beetles were then assigned to either the hot or ancestral adult temperature treatment, in which

they remained until they died. This generated four treatments: *ancestral developmental and*

ancestral adult (AA), ancestral developmental and hot adult (AH), hot developmental and

ancestral adult (HA), and hot developmental and hot adult (HH) temperatures (See Table S1

in Supplement for sample sizes). Males were kept in Eppendorf tubes and weighed every

second day. Females were individually mated with a single male from our stock population on

the day of their emergence, then transferred to a Petri dish and given 15 new beans each day

to lay eggs on. To ensure that all females mated, we observed whether or not the female

kicked the male with her hind legs to end copulation (if she did not, we paired her with the

same male again after ~20 minutes). Beans with eggs laid on them were stored in plastic bags,

and frozen at -20°C for counting later. Both sexes were checked daily for survival and their

adult lifespan was recorded. Details of all traits measured are given in Table 1.

The experiment was conducted over three experimental blocks (Block 1: 26 families;

Blocks 2 and 3: 30 families each). The individuals used in the three experimental blocks came

from 3 successive generations of stock beetles (i.e. blocks 1, 2, and 3, correspond to

generations 14, 15, and 16 respectively). Some experimental beetles escaped, were killed

accidentally, or could not have their sex identified accurately during the experiment, and were

therefore excluded from analyses of reproduction, weight, and lifespan (57 excluded out of

1381 beetles). The assignment of beetles to the developmental and adult treatments was

random except that we tried to assign beetles of each sex from each of the 86 families equally

across the four treatments. The observer was blinded to the treatment of beetles during data

collection to avoid bias.

Data analysis

To determine the effects of developmental and adult temperature as well as their

interaction on the life-history traits (age-independent traits) and senescence (age-dependent

traits) of male and female seed beetles, we used Generalised Linear Mixed-effects Models

(GLMM) or Linear Mixed-effects Models (LMM) as appropriate. All analyses were

conducted in R v3.5.2 (R Development Core Team, 2011) and models were built using the

lme4 (Bates et al, 2014), and glmmTMB (Magnusson et al, 2017) packages. Model details for

each analysed trait are given in Table 1, and in Section B of the online supplement. All

models contained experimental block as a three-level fixed effect, and beetle family (i.e. full-

sibling groups) as a random effect unless mentioned otherwise. For traits measured prior to

the assignment of adult treatments (i.e. emergence success, development time, and emergence

weight), we included developmental temperature in the model as a fixed effect. For traits

measured after beetles were assigned to adult temperatures (i.e. adult lifespan, female fertility,

female lifetime reproductive success, age-dependent (daily) female fecundity, age-dependent

male weight, and age-dependent survival), we included both developmental and adult

temperatures as well as their interactions as fixed effects. For age-dependent female fecundity

and age-dependent male-weight, we included adult lifespan as a fixed effect in the models to

account for selective disappearance of beetles. Additionally, for male and female lifespan we

included emergence weight as a covariate because larger seed beetles have been previously

shown to live longer (Fox et al, 2003). For age-dependent weight of males, emergence weight

was also included as a covariate, although here, as an interaction with age, because males at

different ages could be affected by their emergence weight in different ways.

We conducted two post-hoc tests to examine how developmental temperatures were

affecting age-dependent male weight, within each adult temperature. The first post-hoc model

only used data from males who experienced hot adult temperatures, to compare males in AH

(ancestral developmental and hot adult) vs HH (hot developmental and hot adult) treatments.

The second only used data from males who experienced ancestral adult temperatures, so that

males in HA (hot developmental and ancestral adult) and AA (ancestral developmental and

ancestral adult) temperatures could be compared.

For female age-dependent (daily) fecundity, we additionally created three models, one

which allowed the slopes of different families (of full-sibs) to differ, the other which allowed

the slopes of different females to differ, and the third which allowed slopes of both different

females and different families to differ. These models were then compared using Akaike

information Criteria and log-likelihood ratio tests with the *anova* function in the *stats* package

to obtain the best fitting model. This was done to test whether different families and females

showed different pattern of reproductive senescence from each other.

For all adult traits, males and females were analysed separately because we were not

interested in comparing effects across the sexes (i.e. interactions with sex). For age-

independent traits, where models contained interactions, we ran a "full" model with the

interactions, as well as a "main-effects" model (if the interactions in the full model were non-

significant). The main-effects models excluded non-significant interactions to allow accurate

interpretation of the main-effects (Engqvist, 2005). For all linear models, residuals were

checked visually to ensure they met assumptions of normality and homoscedasticity. When

they did not, the response variable was transformed. To test for overdispersion in our models,

we used the function *simulateResiduals* in the package *DHARMa* (Hartig 2020). Where there

was evidence for over-dispersion (i.e. for female lifetime reproductive success), we fitted an

observation level random effect (Harrison, 2014). To test whether the effects of

developmental temperatures were consistent across all blocks, analyses for age-independent

traits were followed by post-hoc pairwise comparisons of hot and ancestral developmental

temperatures within each block. These comparisons were done using Tukey's test in the

emmeans package (Lenth et al, 2019). Effect sizes were calculated as "Hedge's g" for all two-

group comparisons (following equations (1) and (2) in Nakagawa & Cuthill, 2007).

Results

Our analyses indicated a range of effects of developmental and adult temperature on male and

female traits. We describe these results below, and provide a summary in Table 2, with

complete model outputs for all analyses presented in the supplementary material (Tables S3 –

S18).

Age-independent traits

Hot temperatures caused lower emergence success, faster development, and lower

emergence weight in beetles, than ancestral temperatures. Specifically, hot developmental

temperature reduced the *emergence success* of beetles (P< 0.001, Table S3): 676 out of 864

eggs (78%) emerged as adult beetles from the ancestral developmental temperature, while 705

out of 1439 eggs (49%) emerged as adult beetles from the hot developmental temperature.

Both males and females that experienced hot developmental temperatures had a shorter

development time (mean ± SE: males= 23.1 ± 0.1, females= 23.5 ± 0.2 days) than those

experiencing ancestral developmental temperatures (mean ± SE: males= 37.8 ± 0.2, females=

37.99 ± 0.2 days) (P< 0.001 for both males and females, Hedge's g: males= 4.41, females=

4.962, Table S4). Further, both males and females which developed in the hot temperature

had a lower *emergence weight* (mean ± SE: males= 3.510 ± 0.030, females= 4.710 ± 0.039

mg) than those developing in the ancestral temperature (mean ± SE: males= 3.750 ± 0.030,

females= 5.760 ± 0.042 mg) (P< 0.001 for both sexes, Hedge's g: males= 0.436, females=

1.4, Table S5).

After controlling for the positive effect of emergence weight (P< 0.001, Section E in

supplement) there were contrasting effects of hot temperatures in the developmental versus

adult stage on *adult lifespan*. For both males and females, hot developmental temperatures

increased adult lifespan (Males: Hedge's g= 0.10; P= 0.005, Females: Hedge's g= 0.06; P=

0.036). In contrast, hot adult temperatures decreased male and female adult lifespan (Males:

Hedge's g= 4.820; P< 0.001, Females: Hedge's g= 2.493; P< 0.001) (Figure 1, Tables S6 and

S7). There was no significant interaction between developmental temperature and adult

temperature on adult lifespan on either males (P= 0.251), or females (P= 0.531).

Females that developed in hot temperatures were less likely to be *fertile* than females

which developed in ancestral temperatures (15.5% of females from the hot developmental

temperature did not lay any eggs compared to 0.6% of females from the ancestral

developmental temperature, P< 0.001, Table S8). Neither adult temperature on its own (P=

0.119), nor the interaction between developmental and adult temperatures (P= 0.986), had a

significant effect on female fertility. In contrast, both hot developmental (P< 0.001) and hot

adult (P< 0.001) temperatures reduced the *Lifetime Reproductive Success* (*LRS*) of females,

compared to ancestral temperatures (Figure 2, Table S9). Although, developmental

temperatures (Hedge's g= 0.945) had a greater effect than adult temperature (Hedge's g=

0.241) on the LRS of females. There was no effect of the interaction between developmental

and adult temperatures on female LRS (P= 0.595).

The effects of developmental environments seen in the results above were consistently

found within each block, except for male and female adult lifespan (Table S10).

Age-dependent traits

Females that experienced either hot developmental or hot adult temperatures showed a

steeper decline in *age-dependent (daily) fecundity* as they aged compared to females that

experienced ancestral temperatures at either stage (for both stages P< 0.001; Table S11).

Females from hot adult temperatures laid a higher number of eggs than females from ancestral

adult temperatures at ages one (Hedge's g= 0.82), two (Hedge's g= 0.50), and three (Hedge's

g= 0.134) days. After day 3, the effect sizes showed the opposite pattern i.e. females from

ancestral adult temperature laid more eggs (Table S12). There was no three-way interaction

between developmental temperature, adult temperature, and age (as either linear (P= 0.525) or

quadratic (P= 0.226)) to affect the age-dependent (daily) fecundity (Figure 3; Table S11).

The model which allowed the slopes for age-dependent (daily) fecundity to vary

between families and between females, provided a better fit to the data than models which

allowed only the slopes of different families (of full-sibs) to vary, or only the slopes of

different individuals to vary, or only the intercepts of families and individuals to vary (Table

S13). This suggests both significant between-family and between-individual variation in

female reproductive senescence rates.

There was a significant effect of the three-way interaction between developmental and

adult temperatures, and age, on age-dependent *male weight* (P< 0.001, Table S14, Figure 4).

Post-hoc models, which analysed age-dependent weight data for hot adult and ancestral adult

treatments separately (Tables S15, S16), each revealed an interaction between developmental

temperature and age. Specifically, in both hot (Table S15) and ancestral (Table S16) adult

environments, males who experienced hot temperature during development had a lower rate

of decline in weight with age compared to males who experienced ancestral temperatures

during development. The difference in average rate of decline in weight per day was greater

between HH and AH treatments (0.049 mg per day) than between AA and HA treatments

(0.018 mg per day) (Tables S15, S16).

When age-dependent changes in weight were binned by lifespan (Figure S1), they

showed that heavier individuals lived longer (See Section E in Supplement). This suggests

that the apparent increase in average weight seen in late adult life (evidenced by a significant

quadratic effect of age in Table S14 and increase in weight towards the end of life in Figure 4)

is due to selective disappearance of lighter beetles (Effect of lifespan: P< 0.001).

For both males (Table S17, Figure 5) and females (Table S18, Figure 6), *age-*

dependent mortality (survival senescence) was affected by adult temperature (Males: P<

0.001; Females: P< 0.001), but not developmental temperature (Males: P = 0.210; Females:

P= 0.590), nor by an interaction between developmental and adult temperature (Males: P=

0.590; Females: P= 0.820).

Discussion

Early and late life environments can interact in complex ways to shape adult traits.

Consequently, the results of studies testing the effects of exposure to favourable or

unfavourable early life conditions both during the development and adulthood are mixed. To

improve our understanding of how heat stress experienced at different life stages affects

individual phenotypes, as well as to test, whether interactive effects of early and late life

environments affect rates of ageing, we subjected juvenile and adult *C. maculatus* to a

combination of stressful/hot temperatures and benign/ancestral temperatures. We then

measured a range of age-independent and age-dependent traits in both males and females. We

found that while female reproductive traits were affected negatively by stressful

developmental temperature, somatic traits, such as lifespan and survival senescence, were

affected negatively by stressful adult temperature, and weight senescence was affected by an

interaction between these environments.

We found that individuals experiencing hot/stressful temperatures during development

emerged sooner as adults than those experiencing ancestral temperatures, supporting the

metabolic theory of ecology of a faster pace of life (Clarke, 2006). However, accelerated

development caused by high temperatures came with costs, such as lower body weight at

emergence (which is well known to occur in ectotherms: Zuo et al, 2012), and lower

emergence success. Additionally, in females, hot developmental temperatures resulted in

reduced reproductive performance (lower LRS and fertility, faster reproductive senescence).

These results support the silver-spoon hypothesis for female reproduction, suggesting that

independent of the adult environment, favourable developmental environments increase

female fitness (see also Cooper & Kruuk, 2018; Sanghvi et al, 2021).

Additionally, when exposed to hot/stressful adult temperatures, females had higher

early adult life reproduction (on Days 1 to 3), but shorter lifespans and faster reproductive

senescence. These findings support classic life-history theory (Partridge 1987; Stearns, 1989)

which proposes a trade-off between early and late life reproduction (Reed et al, 2008), and

between survival and reproduction (Kirkwood & Rose, 1999; Marshall et al, 2017). However,

our results contrast with a previous study investigating the effects of the developmental

density experienced by seed beetles (Sanghvi et al 2021), which showed no effect of high

density on the trade-off between female early and late life reproduction, or between female

reproduction and survival. This suggests that trade-offs between early and late adult life traits

are specific to, and mediated by, the type of environmental parameter being manipulated (e.g.

Hammers et al, 2013). In the presence of high temperature, such trade-offs appear to be

common across taxa, including seed beetles (Berger et al, 2017; Kim et al, 2020). There are

several potential explanations for such patterns. For example, individuals experiencing hot

temperatures may adopt a "live-fast die-young" life-history strategy (Robinson et al, 2006).

Here, if hot temperatures decrease expected future reproduction and survival, this would be

expected to trigger females to terminally invest in early reproduction (Clutton-Brock, 1984),

although this increased early life investment would lead to faster senescence in later life (e.g.

Gribble et al, 2018). Alternatively, individuals exposed to cooler temperatures might show

reduced survival senescence because during early adult life they allocate resources to somatic

maintenance rather than reproduction (Kirkwood & Austad, 2000). It is also possible that

temperature affects these traits independently, and that the correlations between survival and

reproduction are non-causal.

Hot adult temperatures lead to lower adult lifespan and higher age-dependent mortality

(survival senescence) in both males and females. The lack of a sex-specific effect on overall

survival is not surprising since, again, high temperatures in ectotherms are known to affect

longevity as a consequence of increased metabolism (Brown et al, 2004), which is likely to

affect males and females in a similar way. More surprising, perhaps, is that the developmental

environment did not also affect these somatic traits in a deleterious way. A reason for this

could be that selective disappearance of poor quality individuals at the developmental stage of

led to an average increase in adult lifespan in hot temperatures, especially in females (See

section D in supplement for more information). Another reason may be that somatic traits are

only affected by current environments, or that organisms are able to better compensate for

poor somatic traits than for reproductive traits, after experiencing unfavourable developmental

environments.

In contrast to the other traits, we found that early and late environments interacted to

affect age-dependent changes in male weight. This interaction was due to the differences in

age-dependent decline in weight between hot and ancestral developmental temperature being

greater when adult temperature are hot compared to when they are ancestral (Table S15, S16).

Additionally, males who experienced hot temperature at both stages, showed a slower rate of

age-dependent loss in weight (Table S15) compared to males who experienced favourable

developmental but hot adult temperatures. This result is consistent with the beneficial

acclimation hypothesis (Wilson & Franklin, 2002), which is a form of adaptive plasticity.

Although, because the absolute differences in the rate of weight loss between males in these

treatments of our study is low (only 0.049 mg per day), whether this result is biologically

meaningful, remains unknown. Evidence for beneficial acclimation due to an interaction

between adult and developmental environments (West-Eberhard, 2003) has been commonly

found in species where temperature is manipulated (Leroi et al, 1994; Geister & Fischer,

2007; Reviewed in Wilson & Franklin, 2002). However, previous studies looking at age-

dependent traits have not found any evidence for beneficial acclimation effects when

manipulating foraging environments (Briga et al, 2019), or diet and temperature (Min et al,

2021). A testable hypothesis for why we found some evidence for beneficial acclimation

could be that the allocation of resources towards somatic (i.e. body weight) maintenance, by

males who experience developmental stress, occurs at the expense of investment in

reproduction.

A recent study (Duxbury & Chapman, 2020), which aimed to test between the silver-

spoon and environmental matching hypotheses, manipulated developmental and adult

nutrition, and found that female reproductive senescence was affected by an interaction

between developmental and adult diets. However, another study that manipulated both adult

and developmental temperatures in *Drosophila* found results similar to ours (Min et al, 2020).

Specifically, they found that adult temperature had a greater effect on age-dependent survival

than developmental temperature, and that hot adult temperatures were deleterious for adult

survival senescence. However, they also found an interaction of adult and developmental

temperatures to affect age-dependent fecundity deleteriously, which we did not. One reason

why we did not find such interactions could be due to the kind of environmental variable that

was manipulated (temperature in our study, diet in Duxbury & Chapman, 2020) and different

biology of the species studied.

Finally, we also found two population-level patterns in senescence which could have

important ecological and evolutionary consequences. First, there were significant differences

in rates of reproductive senescence between females, as well as between families (of full-

sibs). This was evidenced by models which allowed the slopes of both, different females and

families to vary, providing a better fit to the data than models which did not. Individual-level

variation in senescence has been shown previously in wild animals (Bouwhuis et al, 2010),

and is essential for traits (in our case, reproductive senescence) to evolve via natural selection.

Further, the differences in rates of reproductive senescence between families suggest this trait

is heritable and thus able to evolve. Second, we found evidence for selective disappearance of

lighter males with increasing age. This may have masked individual-level decreases in weight

due to heavier individuals surviving longer. Such evidence of individual-level patterns of

senescence being masked by population patterns of ageing due to selective disappearance of

individuals has previously only been shown in vertebrates (Bouwhuis et al, 2009; Hayward et

al, 2013).

Conclusion

Ours is one of the first studies to test how heat stress experienced at different life-

stages interacts to affect individual life-histories and senescence. We show that depending on

the trait and the sex measured, either developmental, adult, or the interaction between both

environments can affect the resulting phenotype. This suggests that the way environments

affect an individual's phenotypic responses is complex and shows that each trait can follow

different trajectories, providing support to different aspects and hypotheses of life-history

theory. In consequence, we highlight the importance of measuring fitness-related traits

throughout an organism's life, as well as measuring both physiological and life-history

components of fitness in order to understand the holistic effects of environments on

individuals. Considering that the adult environment might have stronger influence than

developmental environments on traits which are not direct measures of reproduction, we

suggest that studies should integrate the effects of early and late life environments to avoid

biased results, as well as measure a diverse range of life-history and physiological traits. If

traits change differently over time in different environments, it is crucial that studies measure

these traits throughout the lifetime of organisms.

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Table 1. Summary of traits and models used for analyses. DevT. =Developmental temperature, AdultT. =Adult temperature, Age= Adult age

Trait	Definition	Model type	Error distribution	Data Transformaton (LMM) / Link Function (GLMM)	Fixed effects	Random Effects
Emergence success	Likelihood of adults emerging from a bean with an egg laid on it	GLMM	Binomial	Logit	DevT. + Block	Family
Development time	Number of days between the laying of an egg, and the emergence of an adult	LMM	Gaussian	Power $((y^{\lambda} -1)/\lambda)$ Males: $\lambda= -0.133214$ Females: $\lambda= 0.2275$	DevT. + Block	Family
Emergence weight	Weight (mg) of beetle on the day of emergence	LMM	Gaussian	Males: None Females: None	DevT. + Block	Family
Adult lifespan	Number of days between the emergence of an individual and its death	LMM	Gaussian	Males: None Females: $Log_e (y)$	DevT. * AdultT. + Emergence weight + Block	Family
Fertility (females)	Likelihood that a female laid at least one egg in her lifetime	GLM	Binomial	Logit	DevT. * AdultT. + Block	None
Life time reproductive success (females)	LRS: total number of eggs laid by a female in her lifetime	GLMM	Poisson	$Log_e (y)$	DevT. * AdultT. + Adult Lifespan + Block	Family, Observation
Age dependent (daily) fecundity (females)	Number of eggs laid by a female each day, measured since day of emergence throughout her lifespan	GLMM	Negative binomial distribution	$Log_e (y)$	DevT. * AdultT. * Age (and Age^2) + Adult Lifespan + Block	Family, Individual ID (and additional models with Age|Family and/or Age|ID as random

Age-dependent weight (males)	Weight (mg) of males measured every alternate day, since day of emergence, throughout his lifespan	LMM	Gaussian	None	DevT. * AdultT. * Age (and Age^2) + Age*Emergence weight + Adult Lifespan + Block	Family, Individual ID
Age-dependent survival	Likelihood of adult beetles dying at a given adult age	Cox-Proportional hazards		None	DevT.* AdultT. + Block	Family

Table 2. Summary of results for effects of developmental and adult temperatures on all measured traits (ns: P > 0.05). DevT =Developmental temperature, AdultT= Adult temperature, A= Ancestral temperature, H= Hot temperature, Age= Adult age.

Trait	DevT		AdultT		DevT* AdultT		DevT*Age	AdultT*Age	DevT*AdultT*Age
	males	females	males	females	males	females			
Emergence success (both sexes)	H < A								
Development time	H < A	H < A							
Emergence weight	H < A	H < A							
Adult lifespan	H > A	H > A	H < A	H < A	ns	ns			
Female fertility		H < A		ns		ns			
Female LRS		H < A		H < A		ns			
Female age-dependent (daily) fecundity		-		-		-	Yes	Yes	ns
Male age-dependent adult weight	-		-		-		Yes	-	Yes
Age-dependent survival	ns	ns	Yes	Yes	ns	ns			

Figure 1. The effects of developmental and adult temperatures on female (red) and male

(blue) adult lifespan. *Ancestral developmental and ancestral adult (**AA**), ancestral*

*developmental and hot adult (**AH**), hot developmental and hot adult (**HH**), and hot*

*developmental and ancestral adult (**HA**)* temperatures. Median, interquartile ranges (25,50,

75%) and upper and lower extremes presented.

Figure 2. Violin plot comparing the smoothed probability density, median, interquartile

ranges (25,50, 75%), and upper and lower extremes presented. of the effects of developmental

and adult temperature on female lifetime reproductive success (LRS). *Ancestral*

*developmental and ancestral adult (**AA**), ancestral developmental and hot adult (**AH**), hot*

*developmental and hot adult (**HH**), and hot developmental and ancestral adult (**HA**)*

temperatures. Letters 'a to c' denote significant differences between pairwise comparisons of

groups, with same letters denoting no significant difference.

712

713   Figure 3. Effects of adult age on female daily fecundity for all four treatments: *Ancestral*

714   *developmental and ancestral adult (**AA-Purple**), ancestral developmental and hot adult (**AH-***

715   ***Green**), hot developmental and hot adult (**HH-Orange**), and hot developmental and ancestral*

716   *adult (**HA-Red**)* temperatures. Shaded regions represent 95% confidence intervals.

Figure 4. Effects of adult age on weight (mg) in males for all four treatments of: *Ancestral*

*developmental and ancestral adult (**AA-Purple**), ancestral developmental and hot adult (**AH-***

*Green), hot developmental and hot adult (**HH-Orange**), and hot developmental and ancestral*

*adult (**HA-Red**)* temperatures. Shaded regions represent 95% confidence intervals.

725 Figure 5. The survival probability of adult males from four treatments with increasing age,

726 namely: *Ancestral developmental and ancestral adult (**AA-red**), ancestral developmental and*

727 *hot adult (**AH-green**), hot developmental and hot adult (**HH-purple**), and hot developmental*

728   *and ancestral adult (**HA-blue**) temperatures, using Kaplan-Meier curves. Shaded regions*

729   represent 95% confidence intervals.

730

731
732   Figure 6. The survival probability of adult females from four treatments with increasing age,

733   namely: *Ancestral developmental and ancestral adult (**AA-red**), ancestral developmental and*

734   *hot adult (**AH-green**), hot developmental and hot adult (**HH-purple**), and hot developmental*

735   *and ancestral adult (**HA-blue**) temperatures, using Kaplan-Meier curves. Shaded regions*

736   represent 95% confidence intervals.