Temperature and photoperiod influence survival and biomarkers of senescence in common woodlouse

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Abstract

Most living organisms display a decline in physiological performances when ageing, a process called senescence that is most often associated with increased mortality risk. Previous researches have shown that both the timing and the intensity of senescence vary a lot within and among species, but the role of environmental factors in this variation is still poorly understood. To fill this knowledge gap, we investigated the impact of environmental conditions on the strength of senescence using an experimental design applied to a population of common woodlouse *Armadillidium vulgare* intensively monitored in the lab. As no cellular senescence biomarker was available in woodlouse, our first step was to identify two biomarkers of senescence in this species: the β-galactosidase activity and the profile of immune cells. These biomarkers provided evidence of sex-specific senescence patterns, with a higher β-

galactosidase activity and lower immune cell viability in females than in males at old
age. We then tested the impact of environmental conditions, through changes in
temperature and photoperiod, on these biomarkers. We found different effects of the
environmental changing: The increasing of day light modification leaded the same
effect as age on our senescence biomarkers while temperature modifications leaded
the opposite effect as age on the β-galactosidase activity and cell size. We also
demonstrated the existence of sex-specific responses to changes in environmental
conditions. By using an experimental approach and new biomarkers of senescence in
woodlouse, we show that environmental conditions and sex both shape the diversity
observed in senescence patterns of woodlouse and underline the importance of
identifying senescence biomarkers to understand how environmental conditions
influence the evolution of senescence.

Keywords
Armadillidium vulgare, cellular senescence, immunosenescence, environmental
impact, invertebrates

1.Introduction
Senescence is generally defined as a progressive decline in physiological
performances that leads to a decrease in the probability to reproduce (i.e. reproductive
senescence) or survive (i.e. actuarial senescence) with increasing age (Monaghan et
al., 2008). This process is nearly ubiquitous in the living world (Nussey et al., 2013) but
display a tremendous diversity of patterns across the tree of life (Jones et al., 2014).
Whatever the studied trait, both timing and intensity of senescence strongly vary across
species (e.g. Nussey et al., 2011), populations (e.g. Tidière et al., 2016), and
individuals (e.g. Bérubé et al., 1999). Many studies aiming to understand the diversity
of senescence patterns at different levels of the biological organization have suggested
that environmental conditions are likely to play a significant role (Fontana et al., 2010;
Martin et al., 1996; Hassall et al. 2017). For instance, resource competition in early life
can strengthen both actuarial and body mass senescence in wild populations of
mammals (Nussey et al., 2007; Beirne et al., 2015). However, environmental
conditions can potentially influence senescence in a sex-specific way, as evidenced
for other life-history traits. For instance, in the neriid fly (*Telostylinus angusticollis*), a
dietary restriction caused the complete female infertility, whereas in males, the

negative effect of dietary restriction on reproduction was effective only when they
received a rich larval diet and when they were housed with females (Adler et al., 2013).
In the Alpine marmot, (*Marmota marmota*), the social environment lead strongly
different actuarial senescence patterns between males and females (Berger et al.,
2018). Sex-specific effects of environmental conditions on senescence thus need to
be investigated. Moreover, to thoroughly understand how environmental conditions
modulate observed patterns of senescence, their specific impact on organisms must
be separately quantified. Here, we provide such a study by investigating cellular
senescence in the common woodlouse *Armadillidium vulgare.* This terrestrial isopod
can live up to three years (Paris and Pitelka, 1962) and is highly sensitive to
environmental conditions, especially when they involve changes in photoperiod and
temperature. In fact, these parameters are closely related to reproduction and water
loss (Mocquard et al., 1989; Smigel and Gibbs, 2008). Overall, woodlouse can be
easily controlled and monitored in the laboratory and thereby constitute a very relevant
model to test whether and how environmental conditions impact senescence patterns.

Biomarkers of senescence correspond to biological parameters that allow
predicting the functional capability of an organism better than its chronological age
(Baker and Sprott, 1988). At the cellular scale, senescence corresponds to the cellular
deterioration leading stop of the cellular cycle (Campisi and di Fagagna, 2007). As
ageing is associated with cellular senescence (Herbig et al., 2006; Lawless et al., 2010;
Wang et al., 2009), cellular biomarkers provide reliable metrics to study senescence.
One of the most popular biomarker of senescence is based on the lysosomal activity
of the β-galactosidase enzyme, which increases when the cell enters in senescence
(Dimri et al., 1995; Itahana et al., 2007). The activity of the β-galactosidase has mostly
been used to study the senescence of mammalian cells (Gary and Kindell, 2005), but
has also been successfully used to detect both senescence in honeybees (Hsieh and
Hsu, 2011) and effect of lower temperature on senescence of the short-lived fish
Nothobranchius furzeri (Valenzano et al., 2006). Likewise, the decline in immune
performance with increasing age (i.e. immunosenescence) can also provide a suitable
biomarker of senescence. A diminution of the number of effective immune cells has
thus been reported in wild vertebrates (Cheynel et al., 2017) but also in invertebrates
including mosquitoes *Aedes aegypti* (Hillyer et al., 2004) and crickets *Gryllus assimilis*
(Park et al., 2011). In this later species, the immunosenescence also involves a
decrease of the melanotic module formation, which increases damage of immune cells,

and then modifies the immune cell composition (Park et al., 2011). Moreover,
senescent cells are bigger than non-senescent cells (Hayflick, 1965; Rodier and
Campisi, 2011). Overall the viability and the size of immune cells reliably indicate the
level of individual immunosenescence. In biomedical research, biomarkers of
immunosenescence are routinely used to assess the role of stressful environmental
conditions on ageing (Piazza et al., 2010).

In this study, we first looked for senescence biomarkers specific to *A. vulgare*
based on empirical studies performed in invertebrates and on previous reports on age-
specific changes in the density of immune cells (Sicard et al., 2010). We expected both
an increase in β-galactosidase activity and a decrease of immune cell viability and
density with increasing age. Then, we quantified the impact of changes in temperature
and photoperiod on these biomarkers. We thus experimentally tested the response of
two cellular biomarkers of senescence to a large range of variation in both temperature
and photoperiod. We expected the effect of temperature and photoperiod to shape
specific variations on these senescence biomarkers and survival in females and males
woodlouse.

2. Materials & Methods

2.1. Biological model

Individual *A. vulgare* used in the following experiments were derived from wild
populations and have been monitored in lab conditions over ten years. Individuals have
been maintained on moistened soil with the natural photoperiod of Poitiers (France
46.58°N, 0.34°E, 20°C) at 20°C with food (i.e. dried linden leaves and carrots) *ad*
libitum. Crosses were monitored to control genetic diversity. For each clutch obtained,
individuals were sexed, and brothers and sisters were separated to ensure virginity.
In common woodlouse, individuals moult throughout their lives according to a molting
cycle (Lawlor, 1976). At 20°C, they approximately moult once per month (Steel, 1980)
and all the cells of the concerned tissues are renewed. However, the brain, the nerve
cord, part of the digestive tract and gonads are not part of tissues renewed during
molting and are therefore good candidates for tissue-specific study of senescence in
this species. In addition to molting regularly, the female woodlouse exhibits specific
molts related to reproduction (Moreau and Rigaud, 2002). These molts and more
generally the onset of reproduction are influenced by environmental conditions: both

increased temperature and longer days stimulate the onset of reproduction (Mocquard
et al., 1989). The reproductive period occurs during spring.

2.2. Experimental design

We tested the effect of environmental factors on senescence in *A.vulgare* in two
steps. We first developed biomarkers of senescence using individuals living in non-
stressful conditions. Second, we tested the impact of changes in temperature and
photoperiod on the survival and on our set of biomarkers (Figure 1). The different
protocols were applied to males and females separately to assess the effect of sex on
senescence patterns.

Figure 1: Experimental Design
The experiment was conducted in two steps. In step 1, 60 individuals (30 one-year-old, 15 males and 15 females, and 30 three-years-old, 15 males and 15 females) were used to test the impact of ageing on immune cell parameters and 180 individuals (90 six-months-old, 45 males and 45 females, and 90 two-years-old, 45 males and 45 females) were used to test the impact of ageing on β-galactosidase activity. In step 2, 600 individuals were used to test the impact of changes in temperature and photoperiod on survival and biomarkers of senescence: 120 individuals by experimental (or control) condition composed of 60 females and 60 males. We estimated 60 days after exposure to different temperature and photoperiod conditions the survival of these 120 individuals (by condition). More specifically, 30 (15 males and 15 females) individuals were sampled to measure the impact of changes in temperature and in photoperiod on immune cells and on β-galactosidase activity using the photoperiod experimental or control protocols and the temperature protocols at 10°C and 20°C. For the temperature protocol at 28°C, fewer females (25) and males (20) were sampled because of the lower survival rate under these conditions.

2.3. Step 1: Development of biomarkers of senescence in *A. vulgare*

Biological material

To test the impact of age on the immune cell parameters (i.e. density, viability,
and size) that were candidates for providing biomarkers of senescence in *A. vulgare,*
60 mature individuals were used: 30 young (i.e. 1-year-old, 15 males and 15 females)
and 30 old (3-years-old, 15 males and 15 females). As the number of 3-years-old
individuals was low, and the establishment of these two biomarkers were set-up
independently, we used 2-years-old individuals to study the impact of age on β-
galactosidase activity. Thus, 180 individuals (90 six-months-old individuals, 45 males
and 45 females) and 90 two-years-old individuals, 45 males and 45 females) were
used (Figure 1).
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Measure of immune cell parameters
To study the impact of age on the immune parameters, 3 μL of haemolymph
were collected per individual. A hole was bored in the middle of the 6th segment and 3
μL of haemolymph were collected with an eyedropper and deposited promptly in 15 μL
of MAS-EDTA (EDTA 9 mM, Trisodium citrate 27 mM, NaCl 336 mM, Glucose 115
mM, pH 7, (Rodriguez et al., 1995)). Then, 6 μL of Trypan blue at 0.4% (Invitrogen)
were added to permit the coloration of dead cells. Thereafter, 10 μL of this solution
were deposed in (Invitrogen Coutness®) counting slide (Thermofisher). The immune
cell density, the immune cell viability and the immune cell size were evaluated using
an automated Cell Counter (Invitrogen Countess®).
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Measure of β-galactosidase activity
To test the impact of age on β-galactosidase activity, individuals were dissected
separately in Ringer (Sodium Chloride 394 mM, Potassium Chloride 2 mM, Calcium
Chloride 2 mM, Sodium Bicarbonate 2 mM) and nerve cord was removed. Nerve cords
were chosen because they are not regenerated during molting. To obtain a sufficient
quantity of protein, we made pools of five nerve cords (from five different individuals of
the same age). The five nerve cords were filed in 500 μL of Lyse Buffer 1X (CHAPS 5
mM, Citric acid 40 mM, Sodium Phosphate 40 mM, Benzamidine 0.5 mM, PMSF 0.25
mM, pH = 6) (Gary and Kindell, 2005). Samples were centrifuged at 15000g at 4°C for
30 minutes. The supernatant was taken and kept at -80°C until its utilization. The
protein concentration was determined by the BCA assay (Thermofisher) and were
homogenized at 0.1 mg/mL.

The β-galactosidase activity was measured as previously described by Gary
and Kindell (2005). Briefly, 100 µL of protein extract at the concentration of 0.1 mg/mL
were added to 100 µL of reactive 4-methylumbelliferyl-D-galactopyranoside (MUG)
solution in a 96 well-microplate. The MUG reactive, in contact to β-galactosidase, leads
by hydrolysis to the synthesis of 4-methylumbelliferone (4-MU), which is detectable
using fluorescent measurement. Measures were performed by the multimode
microplate reader Mithras LB940 HTS III, Berthold; excitation filter: 120 nm, emission
filter 460 nm, for 120 minutes. Two technical replicates were measured for each pool.
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2.4 Step 2: Assessing the role of changes in temperature and photoperiod on
senescence
To measure the effect of temperature and photoperiod on senescence, we used
120 individuals by experimental (or control) condition (i.e. natural photoperiod,
stimulating photoperiod, 10°C, 20°C and 28°C) composed of 1 year old individuals (60
females and 60 males). At the beginning of the experience, the same quantity of soil
and 5g of dry food were weighed, rehydrated, and disposed in boxes (length x width x
height: 26.5 × 13.5 × 7.5 cm). To test the impact of photoperiod, we exposed *A. vulgare*
to either natural photoperiod (corresponding to the photoperiod observed from January
to March at Poitiers) as controlled conditions or a photoperiod stimulating woodlouse
reproduction (18:6 D/N) as experimental conditions at a temperature of 20°C. To test
the effect of temperature, we exposed *A. vulgare* to three different temperatures: 20°C
corresponding to controlled conditions, 10°C corresponding to supposed stressful cold
conditions, and 28°C corresponding to supposed stressful "hot" conditions. After 60
days of exposure at the five different conditions, individuals were enumerated to
estimate survival. Survivors were then maintained in normal laboratory conditions (i.e.
at 20°C under natural photoperiod) during two months until the measures of cellular
senescence using senescence biomarkers previously developed. The survival at
different temperatures was estimated from 120 individuals. To estimate the cellular
senescence on biomarkers of senescence, 30 individuals from each sex were collected
from each environmental condition except at 28°C, when high mortality forced us to
collect only 20 males and 25 females. The measure of immune cell parameters (Cf.
2.3) was realized at the individual scale when the measurement of the β-galactosidase
(Cf. 2.3) required a pool of 5 nerve cords (i.e. from 5 individuals) to obtain enough
biological material. In this way, the hemolymph sampling was achieved in each

individual before dissection of the animals and reunification of the nerve cords of 5
animals.

2.5 Statistical analysis

The β-galactosidase activity was analyzed with linear mixed effect models using
the R package lme4 (Bates et al., 2014). As two technical replicates were measured
for each pool, the model including the pools fitted as a random effect and age,
photoperiod or temperature, and sex and their two-way interactions as fixed factors.
Linear models with Gaussian distribution were fitted to analyze variation in the cell size
and viability. For the cell density, a linear model of the cell number (log-transformed,
Ives, 2015) was fitted. Survival in different conditions of temperature and photoperiod
was analyzed with generalized models (with a binomial error). All results were obtained
by stepwise backward selection model. The effect size of age, temperature, and
photoperiod on the β-galactosidase activity and immune parameters was measured by
rescaling and standardized slopes were reported as a measure of effect size
(Schielzeth, 2010).

3. Results

3.1 Step 1: development of biomarkers of senescence in *A. vulgare*

The β-galactosidase activity was higher in old individuals (i.e. 2-years-old) than
in young ones (i.e. 6-months-old) (X^2_1=6.15, p=0.013, Figure 2, Figure 3A). We also
detected a sex effect with a higher β-galactosidase activity in females than in males
(X^2_1=7.26, p=0.007, Figure 2, Figure 3A).

Figure 2: β-galactosidase activity according to age and sex in *A. vulgare (F=females, M=males)*
The thick line depicts the median, the box the interquartile range, and the whisker are bounded to the most extreme data point within 1.5 the interquartile range. The outliers outside this range are displayed as open circles. *N= 24 pools of 5 individuals. * p<0.05*

Figure 3: Effect size of age and environmental stressors on the β-galactosidase activity (A), immune cell size (B), immune cell density (C) and immune cell viability (D)
This figure synthetizes the effect size with bootstrapped 95% CI of age and non-optimal photoperiod and temperatures (solid lines), with the sex effect (dotted line) for each senescence biomarkers studied. In each case, the effect is relative to the control condition (young individuals for old individuals, natural photoperiod for stimulating photoperiod and temperature 20°C for temperatures 10°C and 20°C) and for the sex, females were compared to males.

Age had a statistically significant effect on cell size ($F_{1,58}$=8.54, p=0.005, Figure
3B, Figure 4A). Cell size was larger in 3-years-old than in 1-year-old individuals.
Conversely, the cell density was higher in 1-year-old than in 3-years-old individuals
($F_{1,58}$ =4.33, p=0.0, Figure 3C, Figure 4B). Concerning the immune cell viability, a
statistically significant interaction occurred between age and sex, with a relatively lower
immune cell viability in 3-years-old females ($F_{3,56}$=6.85, p=0.01, standardized slope =
-1.22, 95%CI = [-2.16; -0.28]). No sex effect was detected on cell size ($F_{2,57}$=0.76,
p=0.38, Figure 3B, Figure 4A) or cell density ($F_{2,57}$=0.32, p =0.57, Figure 3C, Figure
4B).

Figure 4: Immune cell size (A), density (B) and viability (C) according to age and sex in *A. vulgare (F=females, M=males)*
The thick line depicts the median, the box the interquartile range, and the whisker are bounded to the most extreme data point within 1.5 the interquartile range. The outliers outside this range are displayed as open circles.
*N= 60 individuals: 15 1-year-old females, 15 1-year-old males, 15 3-years-old females and 15 3-years-old males. * p<0.05, ** p<0.01*

3.2 Step 2: Assessing the role of changing temperature and photoperiod on

senescence

3.2.1 Photoperiod

Stimulating photoperiod did not have any detectable influence on survival in
each sex (X^2_1= 0.20, p=0.65 and X^2_1=1.96, p=0.16 for males and females, respectively)
but led to a higher β-galactosidase activity, (X^2_1=3.86, p=0.05, Figure 3A, Figure 5)
and did not influence the size ($F_{1,108}$=0.264, p=0.61, Figure 3B, Figure 6A) density
($F_{1,108}$=0.54, p=0.54, Figure 3C, Figure 6B) or viability ($F_{1,108}$=0.83, p=0.36, Figure 3D,
Figure 6C) of immune cells.

Sex did not impact significantly the β-galactosidase activity (X^2_1=1.96, p=0.16,
Figure 3A, Figure 5), the cell size ($F_{2,108}$=0.32, p=0.57, Figure 3A, Figure 6A), density
($F_{2,108}$=0.41, p=0.52, Figure 3C, Figure 6B) or viability ($F_{2,108}$=1.50, p=0.22, Figure 3D,
Figure 6C).

308   **Figure 5: Impact of changes in photoperiod on β-galactosidase activity in *A. vulgare (F=females, M=males)***

309 The thick line depicts the median, the box the interquartile range, and the whisker are bounded to the most extreme data point within 1.5 the interquartile range. The outliers outside this range are displayed as open circles. *N= 24 pools of 5 individuals, 6 pools by sex and condition * p<0.05*

Figure 6: Impact of changes in photoperiod on immune cell size (A), density (B) and viability (C) in *A. vulgare (F=females, M=males)*

The thick line depicts the median, the box the interquartile range, and the whisker are bounded to the most extreme data point within 1.5 the interquartile range. The outliers outside this range are displayed as open circles.

N= 120 individuals, 30 females in natural photoperiod; 30 males in natural photoperiod; 30 females in stimulating photoperiod and 30 males in stimulating photoperiod. NS: No significant effect

3.2.2 Temperature

At 28°C, the survival of animals decreased (X^2_1=47.48, p<0.001). However, at

10°C, survival of animals was not impacted (X^2_1=0.42, p=0.51). Temperature had an

influence on the β-galactosidase activity (X^2_2=12.2, p=0.002, Figure 3A, Figure 7), on

the cell size ($F_{2,291}$=7.96, p=0.01, Figure 3B, Figure 8A), but also on cell density

($F_{3,290}$=9.24, p=0.001, Figure 3C, Figure 8B) and viability ($F_{3,290}$=19.37, p<0.001,

Figure 3D, Figure 8C). In fact, β-galactosidase activity showed lower values in the two

stressful temperature conditions (i.e. 10°C (X^2_1=9.67, p=0.002) and 28°C (X^2_1=3.85,

p=0.05)) than in the control condition (i.e. 20°C) (Figure 3A, Figure 7). Under stressful

temperature of 10°C cells were smaller than in temperature 20°C ($F_{2,207}$=9.24,

p=0.006, Figure 3B, Figure 8A). The density of immune cells was lower under the

stressful temperature 10°C (X^2_1=18.96, p<0.001) and 28°C (X^2_1=7.06, p=0.008)

(Figure 3C, Figure 8B) as the cell viability (Respectively: X^2_1=15.98, p<0.001;

X^2_1=15.80, p<0.001, Figure 3D, Figure 8C).

A sex effect was also detected with a higher β-galactosidase activity in females

than in males (X^2_1=16.95, p<0.001, Figure 3A, Figure 7). The cell density was higher

in females ($F_{3,290}$=4.01, p=0.05, Figure 3C, Figure 8B) as was the cell viability

($F_{3,290}$=19.61, p<0.001, Figure 3D, Figure 8C). No detectable difference occurred

between females and males in cell size ($F_{3,290}$=0.46, p=0.49, Figure 3B, Figure 8A).

Figure 7: Impact of changes in temperature in β-galactosidase activity in *A. vulgare (F=females, M=males)* The thick line depicts the median, the box the interquartile range, and the whisker are bounded to the most extreme data point within 1.5 the interquartile range. The outliers outside this range are displayed as open circles. *N= 21 pools of 5 individuals, 6 pools by sex and condition excepted in 28°C: 4 pools for males and 5 for females * p<0.05, ** p<0.01*

Figure 8: Impact of changes in temperature on immune cell size (A), density (B) and viability (C) in _A. vulgare (F=females, M=males)_
The thick line depicts the median, the box the interquartile range, and the whisker are bounded to the most extreme data point within 1.5 the interquartile range. The outliers outside this range are displayed as open circles.
N=165 individuals: 30 females at 10°C, 30 males at 10°C, 30 females at 20°C, 30 males at 20°C, 25 females at 28°C and 20 males at 28°C. * p<0.05, ** p<0.01, ***p<0.001, NS: no significant effect

4. Discussion

To understand the diversity of senescence patterns described across the tree
of life, the role of interplaying environmental factors must be identified. Our
experiments confirm that β-galactosidase activity in nerve cords and immune cell
parameters can be reliably used as biomarkers of senescence. Here, we provide clear
evidence that changes in photoperiod and temperature influence biomarkers of
senescence in *A. vulgare* and temperature influences survival too. These results
suggest that environmental condition likely shape senescence patterns in *A. vulgare*.
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As expected, we reported both increasing β-galactosidase activity and
increasing size of immune cells at old age. The density and viability of these immune
cells were both lower in old than in young individuals. These results prove the presence
of cellular senescence in *A. vulgare* and suggest sex-specific patterns of senescence
with higher β-galactosidase activity and lower immune cell viability in females than in
males at old age. Between-sex differences in lifespan have been reported in *A. vulgare*
with a longer lifespan in males than in females (Geiser, 1934; Paris and Pitelka, 1962).
Exact differences in actuarial senescence patterns remain to be quantified in *A. vulgare*
but recent reviews have revealed that such differences are common in both vertebrates
and invertebrates (Tidière et al., 2016; Marais et al., 2018 for reviews) (Tidière et al.
2015; Marais et al. 2018 for reviews). One of the main theory proposed to explain sex
differences in longevity senescence patterns relies on different resource allocation
strategies between sexes (Bonduriansky et al., 2008; Vinogradov, 1998), which was
already evoked to explain the shorter lifespan observed in females *A. vulgare* (Paris
and Pitelka, 1962). In this species, females have to allocate energy to the formation of
a specific reproductive moult and then of a *marsupium* to lay and protect the eggs
(Hornung, 2011; Warburg, 1987), leading them to allocate more energy to reproduction
than males. Females might therefore have a lower amount of resources to allocate in
mechanisms against cellular senescence (Kirkwood, 1977; Kirkwood and Rose, 1991).
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Here, we aimed to test the impact of environmental conditions on woodlouse
senescence by using two distinct environmental stressors: the photoperiod and the
temperature. While the elongation of the day light caused an increase of the β-
galactosidase activity without any negative impact on survival and immune cells, cold
condition led to smaller cell size. At 28°C (hot condition), survival being affected, we
cannot totally exclude the hypothesis that the dead individuals did not have exactly the

same profile as the survivors on the measured biomarkers. Anyhow, lower and higher
temperatures than 20°C seems to induce lower β-galactosidase activity and decreased
cell density and viability. Results obtained in biomarkers were highly different and
underlined the important role of environmental factors on senescence. In *Drosophila*
melanogaster, exposition to high temperature lead the shortening of the lifespan
(Garcia et al., 2010) while caloric restriction often leads to extended lifespan in different
species, from rats to worms (Koubova, 2003). In our study on *A. vulgare*, we observed
that different environmental stresses could also lead opposite effects on the same
biomarkers. These results suggest that stress effects observed in lifespan need to be
study at the cellular scale to understand phenomenon implied.
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Moreover, old females had a higher β-galactosidase activity and a better
immune cell density and viability than males in stressed conditions. These results could
be explained by a more effective immune system in females as often observed in the
living world (Nunn et al., 2009). However, previous study in *A. vulgare* suggests the
opposite: in Sicard et al. (2011), one-years-old males showed a higher cell density than
females of the same age. We supposed that, according to their life history traits
different gender strategies exist in *A. vulgare* as suggested previously in Paris and
Pitelka (1962) and our study indicates that these strategies are shaped by
environmental conditions.
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5. Conclusion
Our study confirms that *A. vulgare* presents all characteristics required to study
senescence. Our findings in this species support the hypothesis that the diversity of
senescence patterns observed among species results from complex interactions
between sex and environmental conditions. The development of a variety of
biomarkers could allow getting a deeper understanding of the impact of environmental
conditions on senescence patterns. Assessing how different environmental stressors
influence biomarkers should help to identify the drivers of the great diversity of
senescence patterns in the living world.
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