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Contrasting responses to salinity and future ocean acidification in Arctic populations of the amphipod *Gammarus setosus*

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Abstract

Climate change is leading to alterations in salinity and carbonate chemistry in arctic/sub-arctic marine ecosystems. We examined three nominal populations of the circumpolar arctic/subarctic amphipod, *Gammarus setosus*, along a salinity gradient in the Kongsfjorden-/Krossfjorden area of Svalbard. Field and laboratory experiments assessed physiological (haemolymph osmolality and gill Na^+/K^+-ATPase activity, NKA) and energetic responses (metabolic rates, MO_2, and Cellular Energy Allocation, CEA). In the field, all populations had similar osmregulatory capacities and MO_2, but lower-salinity populations had lower CEA. Reduced salinity (S=23) and elevated pCO_2 (~1000 µatm) in the laboratory for one month increased gill NKA activities and reduced CEA in all populations, but increased MO_2 in the higher-salinity population. Elevated pCO_2 did not interact with salinity and had no effect on NKA activities or CEA, but reduced MO_2 in all populations. Reduced CEA in lower-rather than higher-salinity populations may have longer term effects on other energy demanding processes (growth and reproduction).

Key words: Arctic; amphipods; cellular energy budgets; metabolic rates; ocean acidification; salinity; Kongsfjorden; Svalbard

1. Introduction

Salinity change is a prominent feature of climate-driven environmental change in Arctic and sub-arctic marine ecosystems. Reductions in sea surface salinity are occurring at higher latitudes because of increasing precipitation, as well as increasing seasonal freshwater input from melting glaciers and permafrost (Callaghan et al., 2011). Within fjord systems of a similar size to Kongsfjorden and Krossfjorden in Svalbard (78-79°N), i.e. 20-30 km long × 5-10 km wide, such changes are altering water flow, and salinity gradients along coastal margins and with depth (Tverberg et al., 2019). Adjusting to salinity change is a considerable challenge to

marine invertebrates, as exposure to reduced salinity increases osmotic gradients across the body surface resulting in the passive influx of water and the loss of ions (Henry et al., 2012). Subsequent changes to extra- and intra-cellular osmolality influences cell volume control and therefore cell function, and many species living in habitats characterised by fluctuating salinities osmoregulate to counteract these effects. Osmoregulatory mechanisms can involve an increase in ion-transporting capacities, the mobilisation of organic osmolytes, and a decrease in body surface permeability (Henry et al., 2012; Rivera-Ingraham et al., 2017). In primarily marine crustaceans, low salinity exposure is dominated by an increase in ion transporting capacities, mainly via an increase in branchial Na^+/K^+-ATPase activities in order to drive the transepithelial movement of ions (Lucu and Towle, 2003). As Na^+/K^+-ATPase activity is considered a major energy consuming process (Pan et al., 2015; Sokolova et al., 2012), and an important component of the increase in metabolic rate observed in many osmoregulating crustaceans (Normant et al., 2004; Normant and Lamprecht, 2006; Jimenez and Kinsey, 2015), an increased reliance on elevated branchial Na^+/K^+-ATPase activity at low salinity could be energetically demanding and influence energy budgets.

Arctic/sub-arctic coastal regions are also experiencing gradual elevations in pCO_2 and reductions in seawater pH and carbonate concentrations due to ocean acidification (Calderia and Wickett, 2003; Orr et al., 2005). Projected changes in seawater surface pH and calcium carbonate saturation are greater in the Arctic mainly due to freshening and resulting decreases in H^+ buffering capacity, as well as increased CO_2 uptake as the sea ice retreats (Steinacher et al., 2009). The survival of marine invertebrates under conditions of elevated pCO_2 is closely associated with their ability to regulate extracellular pH, or acid-base status, despite external changes in seawater carbon chemistry (Wittman and Pörtner, 2013). This in turn helps to preserve intracellular pH, which is particularly important for biomineralisation processes in epithelial cells responsible for the formation of calcified skeletons and shells. Both pH

regulation and biomineralisation involve the transport of ions across epithelia driven by energy consuming ion pumps, suggesting that the ability to compensate for external elevations in pCO_2 is energetically challenging (Wittman and Pörtner, 2013). In crustaceans, where pH regulation has been studied in some detail, compensation for external elevations in pCO_2 occurs via the exchange of acid-base equivalents across the gill epithelia using the same mechanisms as those used for osmoregulation (Wheatly and Henry, 1992; Whiteley et al., 2001; Whiteley, 2011). As a result, strong osmoregulators are considered to be less vulnerable to ocean acidification, although extracellular acid-base responses to elevated CO_2 can vary according to external salinity (Wheatly and Henry, 1992; Whiteley et al., 2001). Ion regulation and metabolic responses to elevated CO_2 also vary among populations occupying different salinity regimes, suggesting population-related differences in energy expenditure. Such differences were demonstrated in the isopod crustacean, *Idotea baltica*, as elevated CO_2 increased metabolic rates in a population inhabiting dilute seawater, but depressed metabolic rates in a marine population (Wood et al., 2016). As both CO_2 and salinity fluctuations co-occur in the field and are predicted to continue to change in the future, it is important to study the energetic repercussions in those species generally accepted to be tolerant of the changes. It is possible that resulting shifts in energy budgets could lead to trade-offs with other energy demanding processes, such as growth and reproduction, and have a negative impact on species at the population level (Widdecombe and Spicer, 2008).

Fjords such as Kongsfjorden, Svalbard, have been experiencing changes in seasonal stratification of both temperature and salinity because of increased melting of the glaciers and changes in patterns of freshwater run-off (Svendsen et al., 2002; Tverberg et al., 2019). Variations in the extent of mixing with the adjacent warm, saline Atlantic current and cool, relatively fresh Arctic waters are also occurring. In the summer, salinity drops to 28 in the surface waters close to the glaciers in the inner fjord, and is 30 towards the middle (i.e. KB3;

Svendsen et al., 2002). Gammarid amphipod crustaceans are particularly abundant in the fjord and surrounding areas and are important components of the Arctic food web as food for fish, birds and seals (e.g. Leinaas and Ambrose, 1999). Two species are found in great abundance along the shore-line: *Gammarus setosus*, a circumpolar arctic/subarctic species that is restricted to a circumpolar distribution, only extending as far south as the Bay of Fundy of New Brunswick (Steele and Steele, 1970) and to Jan Mayen and Northern Norway in the east Atlantic (Gulliksen et al., 2003; Vader and Tandberg, 2019); and *Gammarus oceanicus*, a boreal/cool-temperate species that has expanded north after the last glacial maxima (Costa et al., 2009). Both co-exist along the shore of Kongsfjorden, but over the last 10 years, under general warming conditions, *G. oceanicus* has expanded its range along the shore and *G. setosus* has shifted towards the head of the fjords into cooler water of lower salinity (Weslawski et al., 2011; 2018). It appears that in order for *G. setosus* to escape warming conditions, it faces another challenge in the form of seawater dilution, and yet several populations occupy the south-eastern shore from Ny-Ålesund to Raudvika (inner fjord) where salinities range from 30 down to 17. Currently, it is unknown whether *G. setosus* will survive the lower salinities under conditions of increasing CO_2 levels.

The purpose of the study was to determine ion-transporting capacities and energy budgets of *G. setosus* inhabiting different salinity sites within the Kongsfjorden-Krossfjorden system in Svalbard. Herein, *G. setosus* from these sites are referred to nominally as populations, although it is unknown whether any observed physiological differences between sites are due to phenotypic plasticity or local adaptation. As adaptation is dependent on the rate of gene flow between sites being lower than rates of selection, the migration of only a few individuals per generation possibly compromises genetic differences and the protostructuring of true populations across environmental gradients (reviewed by Rastrick et al., 2018b). Given that osmoregulation is energetically demanding, we were interested in examining whether

populations living in the inner fjord and experiencing lower salinities have higher ion-transporting capacities and lower energy budgets compared with a population in the outer fjord inhabiting higher relative salinities. We were also interested in investigating whether habitat salinity influences energy budgets in *G. setosus* exposed to the added complication of elevated CO_2. To this end, *G. setosus* were sampled in the field to determine *in situ* energy budgets, and then in the laboratory under controlled conditions to specifically study the combined effects of reduced salinity to the values experienced in the inner fjord and near future elevations in CO_2. Osmoregulatory capacity was determined as changes in coxal gill Na^+/K^+ ATPase activity and the energetic consequences were examined via changes in metabolic rate and also changes in cellular energy allocation. The latter has been used to examine changes in energy status over longer time periods than most metabolic rate analyses, and is regularly used in field-based studies (De Coen and Janssen, 1997). Overall, the study aimed to establish whether energy budgets, and hence sensitivities, are equally impacted by changes in environmental salinity and CO_2 across populations of a sub-arctic species occupying different sites along a salinity gradient.

2. Material and methods

2.1 Animal collection and acclimation

Adult *G. setosus* (215 ± 8.6mg), morphologically identified according to Lincoln (1979), were collected in August 2018 from the intertidal zone at two locations in Kongsfjorden (Blomstrandhalvøya: 78°59’11.4”, 12°13’56.8”; near Kongsvegen glacier: 78°52’51.7”, 12°22’48.1”) and one location on the Mitrahalvøya side of Krossfjorden at the entrance of Haugenhyttabukta (: 79°10’56.2”, 11°39’49.0”; Figure 1). This enabled us to include sites with differing salinities. Individuals from these sites will hereafter be referred to as populations. Field studies involved the collection of 30 amphipods at random from the shore for each

population. At each site, metabolic rate was determined on the shore on 9 individual amphipods within ~1hr of collection (detailed in the next subsection). The salinity, temperature, and pH of shore surface water (<1m) was also measured upon collection of the amphipods, using a handheld multimeter (labquest 2, Vernier, Beaverton, USA), and are displayed in Table 1. Water samples (10 µl; n = 3) were also taken for the measurement of medium osmolality. Amphipods were transported by boat for approximately 30 min to the Kings Bay Marine Laboratory in closed 500 ml plastic tanks inside a cool box in water at the appropriate capture salinity and temperature. On arrival the water in the transportation tanks was immediately aerated and amphipods were sampled for haemolymph osmolality (n = 8) before a further 20 animals were snap frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80ºC. These amphipods were used for the determination of coxal gill Na^+/K^+-ATPase activity (n = 12 per population) and cellular energy budgets (n = 8 per population). The maximum time from collection to haemolymph sampling was 3 hours.

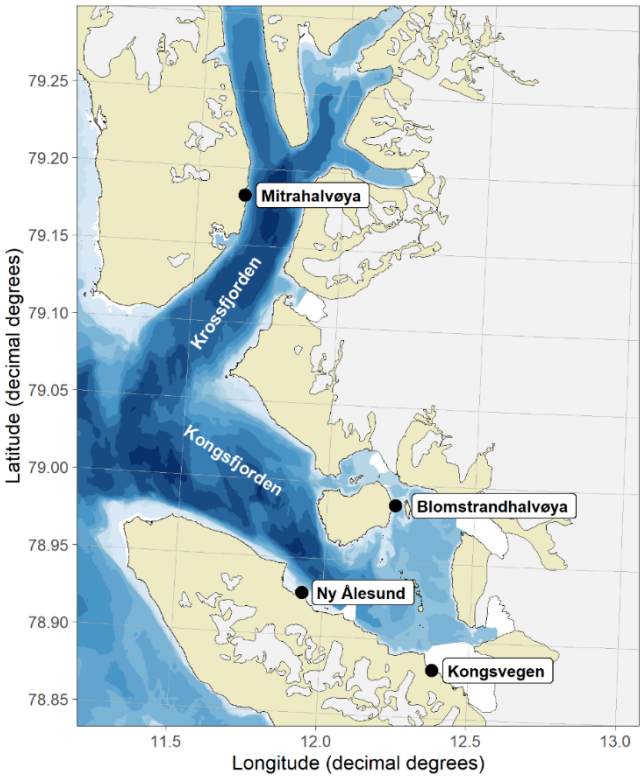

Figure 1. Location of the collection sites for the three populations of *Gammarus setosus* in Kongsfjorden and Krossfjorden, Svalbard (land map from Norwegian Polar Institute, bathymetry from Norwegian Mapping Authority, Vihtakari, 2019).

Collection Site	Salinity	pH	Temperature (°C)
Mitrahalvøya	30	8.16	4.1
Blomstrandhalvøya	23	8.16	4.7
Kongsvegen	26	8.12	3.7

Table 1. Environmental seawater measurements at the time of collection from each of the three collection sites.

A further 120 individuals per site were maintained in aerated water corresponding to the *in situ* temperature and salinity at each collection point for up to 72h before being transported back to the Institute of Marine Research Austevoll Station, Norway, between sheets of tissue paper soaked in water at the appropriate capture salinity and temperature (after Rastrick and Whiteley 2011; 2013). Transport time was 12 hours. After transit, the animals were left to recover for 72 h in aerated water held at the appropriate capture salinity and temperature prior to acclimation to experimental conditions. For the experimental exposures, treatments consisted of two salinity levels (30 and 23, representing the natural range at which animals were collected) and two pCO_2 levels (400 and 1000 µatm, representing present and predicted 'end of the century' levels) in a fully crossed design with triplicate holding tanks per treatment. Ten *G. setosus* from each population were assigned to each holding tank (600 ml; n = 30 per treatment). Seawater salinity and pCO_2 levels were changed from ambient to the final treatment conditions over three days. This corresponded to a pH change of 0.15 pH units per day and up to 3 salinity units per day. Unfiltered seawater collected from the intertidal shore (Austevoll, Norway) and unchlorinated freshwater (source: Water area West-Austevoll) were mixed to create the different salinity levels. A nominal control pCO_2 value of 400 µatm was

selected as this corresponds to the natural habitat pCO_2 level experienced by the amphipods at the time of collection. The predicted future elevated pCO_2 level of 1000 µatm (RCP8.5 2100 pCO_2 projection; Van- Vuuren et al., 2011) was achieved by continuously bubbling a pre-mixed air-CO_2 gas mixture into each of the replicate high CO_2 treatment tanks separately. A pCO_2 of 1000 µatm was controlled at each salinity as explained by Rastrick et al. (2018a). In summary, predetermined seawater pH levels, adjusted for temperature, salinity and total alkalinity (A_T) for each treatment were calculated using free access CO_2SYS (Lewis and Wallace 1998; (30 = pH 7.643; 23 = pH 7.567).

Treatment water was replaced every two days with pre-mixed seawater adjusted to the respective treatment conditions. The system was installed in a temperature-controlled room maintained at 5°C throughout the experiment. Temperature, pH, and salinity in each individual tank were recorded daily using a handheld multimeter (WTW 3110 pH meter and WTW LF340 Conductivity meter). The pH and conductivity electrodes were calibrated twice weekly with NIST certified pH buffer solutions and standard solutions, respectively. A single water sample (10 µl) was taken from each holding tank weekly for the measurement of medium osmolality. A_T was also measured weekly by titration (TIM840 titration manager, TitraLab). Values for the physico-chemical parameters and the associated carbonate chemistry values for this system are presented in Table 2. The herbivorous amphipods were fed a diet of algal fish food *ad libitum* (Hikari Mini algae wafers, Kyorin Co. LTD, Japan) and uneaten food was removed after 8 hours. Following 28 days of acclimation to treatment conditions, amphipods were sampled to determine metabolic rates (n = 9 per treatment), haemolymph osmolality (n = 6 per treatment), coxal gill Na^+/K^+-ATPase activities (n = 12 per treatment) and CEA (n = 9 per treatment) as for the field studies. Amphipods were starved for 24 h before sampling to minimize differences in metabolic rate due to feeding status.

Nominal pCO_2 treatment (µatm)	400	400	1000	1000
Nominal Salinity Treatment	23	30	23	30
pCO_2 treatment (µatm)	390.8 (1.768)^{a}	427.4 (2.675)^{a}	901.0 (6.485)^{b}	870.7(7.389)^{b}
Salinity	22.96 (0.007)^{a}	30.07 (0.013)^{b}	22.96 (0.006)^{a}	30.07 (0.013)^{b}
Temperature (°C)	4.569 (0.015)	4.578 (0.016)	4.589 (0.016)	4.572 (0.016)
A_T (µmol kg^{-1})	1663 (2.078)^{a}	2177 (5.314)^{c}	1701 (0.217)^{ab}	2160 (10.41)^{bc}
pH	7.947 (0.002)^{c}	8.000 (0.003)^{d}	7.613 (0.003)^{a}	7.709 (0.003)^{b}
DIC (µmol kg^{-1})	1607 (2.058)^{a}	2069 (5.142)^{bc}	1713 (0.609) ^{ab}	2137 (10.53)^{c}
HCO_3^- (µmol kg^{-1})	1533 (1.981)^{a}	1958 (4.898)^{bc}	1637 (0.422)^{ab}	2043 (10.06)^{c}
CO_3^{2-} (µmol kg^{-1})	51.30 (0.204)^{c}	87.90 (0.501)^{d}	25.40 (0.179)^{a}	46.95 (0.316)^{b}
Ω_{calc}	1.296 (0.005)^{c}	2.152 (0.012)^{d}	0.642 (0.005)^{a}	1.149 (0.008)^{b}
Ω_{arag}	0.785 (0.003)^{c}	1.342 (0.008)^{d}	0.389 (0.003)^{a}	0.717 (0.005)^{b}

Temperature, salinity and pH (NBS scale) were measured daily. Total alkalinity (A_T) was measured weekly. Different superscript letters indicate significant variation between treatments (ANOVA with Tukey HSD post hoc or Kruskal-Wallis with Dunn-Bonferroni post hoc, $p < 0.05$).

Table 2. Physico-chemical seawater parameters from each of the four nominal pCO_2 and salinity treatments over the 28-day exposure period. Values are means with SEM in parenthesis

2.2 Determination of metabolic rate

Oxygen uptake rates (MO_2) of amphipods in the field were measured on the beach where they were collected using sealed-chamber respirometers in a water bath of continuously circulating shore water to maintain in situ temperature. Individuals of *G. setosus* (n = 9) from each population were carefully placed into individual chambers (volume 12.5 ml) filled with natural seawater from their respective sampling sites (Table 1). Chambers were then closed and oxygen as a % of air saturation was measured every 15 minutes using a non-invasive optical oxygen system (Fibox 4, PreSens) over a 1 h 45 min period. The first 1 h of measurements were discarded to avoid stress-related handling effects and measurements were made in the shade to minimise disturbance to the animals.

Oxygen uptake rate in the laboratory was measured using stop-flow respirometry after Rastrick and Whiteley (2011). In brief, 9 *G. setosus* from each treatment were placed into

individual stop-flow respirometers (volume 19 ml) supplied with the same seawater as the respective treatment tanks. For each treatment, all 9 respirometers were run simultaneously along with a control respirometer without an amphipod. Animals were allowed 1 h to settle in the respirometers and to recover from handling stress before the seawater flow was stopped (R. Crichton, unpublished observations). The resulting decline in % oxygen saturation was measured continuously over a period of 45 minutes using a non-invasive optical oxygen system (Oxy-10 mini, PreSens; as in Calosi et al., 2013). Measurements in the laboratory were made in the dark to minimise disturbance to the animals. In all cases, magnetic stirrers were used to prevent the formation of pO_2 gradients within the respirometers. The stirrers were separated from the animals by a perforated platform. After the end of each measurement, amphipods were blotted dry on tissue paper for body mass determination.

Measurements of oxygen in seawater (% air saturation) were converted into oxygen partial pressure (pO_2) at relevant barometric pressure. All readings were taken above 17 kPa to avoid the effects of hypoxia. A respirometer without an amphipod was included during each run as a control. Rates of oxygen uptake were calculated by converting decreases in pO_2 into dissolved oxygen by multiplying with the oxygen solubility of seawater using coefficients adjusted for the effect of temperature and salinity (Benson and Krause, 1984). This was adjusted for time, respirometer volume, and any oxygen change in the control respirometer to give ml O_2 h^{-1}. Mass specific rates of oxygen uptake were adjusted for body mass (ml O_2 g^{-1} h^{-1}), and then standardised to standard dry temperature and pressure (STPD) and expressed as µmol O_2 g^{-1} h^{-1}.

2.3 Coxal gill Na^+/K^+ATPase activity

All six pairs of coxal gills were removed from each individual with fine forceps and placed in ice cold SEI buffer (150 mM sucrose; 10 mM Na_2 EDTA; 50 mM imidazole, pH 7.3). To allow for sufficient material for gill enzyme activity to be measured, coxal gills from two animals were pooled (n = 6 after samples were pooled). Na^+/K^+-ATPase activities were determined using the microassay developed by McCormick and Bern (1989), modified for use in crustaceans by Wilder et al. (2000), in which the hydrolysis of ATP is enzymatically linked to the oxidation of NADH. All samples were analysed within 3 months as preliminary investigations showed that Na^+/K^+-ATPase activities are unaffected by freezing within this timeframe (J Brown, unpublished observations). Protein concentrations were determined using the micro-modification of the Pierce BCA Protein Assay (Thermo Scientific). Na^+/K^+-ATPase enzyme activities were expressed as µmol ADP produced mg^{-1} protein h^{-1}.

2.4 Haemolymph and Medium osmolality

A single 10 µl haemolymph sample was taken from the haemocoel by fine tipped glass capillary tube inserted through the membrane between the 7^{th} pereon segment and the 1^{st} pleopod segment to extract haemolymph via capillary action. The osmolality of each haemolymph and water sample was determined using a freezing-point osmometer (Osmomat 030, Gonotec GmbH, Berlin, Germany).

2.5 Cellular energy budgets

Cellular Energy Allocation (CEA) was measured on whole organism homogenates according to De Coen and Janssen (1997) with several modifications. Individual amphipods were ground into a fine powder in liquid nitrogen using a pre-cooled pestle and mortar and allocated into 4 smaller subsamples, one each to determine the different energy reserve fractions (E_a; total lipids, proteins and carbohydrates), and the remainder to determine cellular energy consumption (E_c) by first measuring mitochondrial electron transport system (ETS) activity.

Lipid content was determined using the Sulpho-Phospho-Vanillin method of Bligh and Dyer (1959) modified by Torres et al. (2007) whereby lipids are extracted through a chloroform:methanol solution before being dissolved in sulphuric acid, and reacted with vanillin in the presence of phosphoric acid. Protein content in the homogenates was determined using the micro-modification of the Pierce BCA Protein Assay (Thermo Scientific). Carbohydrate content was determined using the anthrone-sulphuric acid method of Roe (1954) and Leyva et al. (2008) whereby carbohydrates are extracted and washed using trichloroacetic acid (TCA) before being reacted with an anthrone-sulphuric acid solution. The different energy reserve fractions, expressed as µg ml^{-1} were transformed into energetic equivalents using their respective energy of combustion (39.5 J mg^{-1} lipid, 24.0 J mg^{-1} protein, 17.5 J mg^{-1} glycogen; Gnaiger, 1983) and combined to give total energy available (E_a) in J mg^{-1} ww. Energy consumed (E_c) was determined from the activity of the electron transport system at the mitochondrial level according to Owens and King (1975). In brief, ETS activity was estimated kinetically at 20ºC for 10 min by measuring the electron transmission rate of the mitochondrial ETS from physiological substrates (NADH, succinate and NADPH) to an artificial electron receptor (INT), which reduces to form formazan. The amount of formazan formed was calculated using the extinction coefficient of 15,900 M^{-1} cm^{-1}. Energy consumption (E_c) was subsequently estimated from the conversion of formazan in µmoles to µmoles of O_2 assuming 1 µmol of O_2 per 2 µmol of formazan formed (De Coen & Janssen 1997), and then converted into energetic equivalents using the oxyenthalpic equivalent of 484 kJ mol^{-1} (Gnaiger 1983; De Coen and Janssen 1997). Gómez et al. (1996) have demonstrated that ETS activity is unaffected by freezing. E_c was expressed in mJ mg^{-1} ww^{-1} h^{-1}. CEA was calculated as E_a/E_c.

2.6 Statistical analysis

Differences in the response variables measured amongst the populations in the field and differences in the seawater parameters measured in all 4 treatments in the laboratory were first

tested for normality using the Shapiro-Wilk test and homogeneity of variance using the Levene's test. Parametric data was analysed using a one-way ANOVA with Tukey HSD for pairwise comparisons and non-parametric data was analysed using a Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn-Bonferrroni post-hoc test for pairwise comparisons (SPSS, Version 25).

The effects of population, elevated pCO_2 and/or reduced salinity (fixed factors) and the random factor (tank) on all of the response variables in the laboratory were tested using linear mixed effects (LMM) and general least square modelling (GLS, Zuur et al., 2009) in RStudio version 1.1.383 (RStudio Team, 2016). LMM and GLS analysis were carried out using the lme and gls functions from the *nlme* package (Pinheiro and Bates, 2000), with the varIdent and the varConstPower constructor functions used to incorporate heterogeneity in residual variation into the model where needed. A backwards approach was used for model selection, starting with the global model which fully crossed all explanatory variables. Simpler models were then selected using a combination of Akaike information criteria (AICc) and hypothesis testing (likelihood ratio tests). Model selection was first applied to the random structure (variance heterogeneity and random effects, where applicable) using restricted maximum likelihood (REML) estimation, then to the fixed structure (fixed effects) using maximum likelihood (ML) estimation. Terms were removed from the model if the AICc decreased. When terms were removed and the AICc increased by more than two, the model with the lower AICc was selected, regardless of differences in complexity. In cases where dropping a term increased the AICc by less than two, likelihood ratio tests were used. When $p<0.05$, the model with the lower AICc was selected and the principle of parsimony was applied when $p>0.05$, and the model with the lower number of parameters was selected. When response variables were influenced by independent factors, Tukey post-hoc analysis was performed using the *lsmeans* package (Lenth, 2016). All Cellular Energy Allocation data was log-transformed to better meet assumptions of normality.

3. Results

3.1. Field Measurements

3.1.1. Metabolic and Osmoregulatory responses

No significant differences in rates of oxygen uptake were observed among the three populations of *G. setosus* at the time of field capture ($F_{(2,21)}$=1.164, p=0.332; Figure 2). Likewise, there were no significant differences in coxal gill Na^+/K^+-ATPase activity ($F_{(2,15)}$=1.149, p=0.343) or haemolymph osmolality ($F_{(2,21)}$=2.191, p=0.137) among the three populations of *G. setosus* (Table 3).

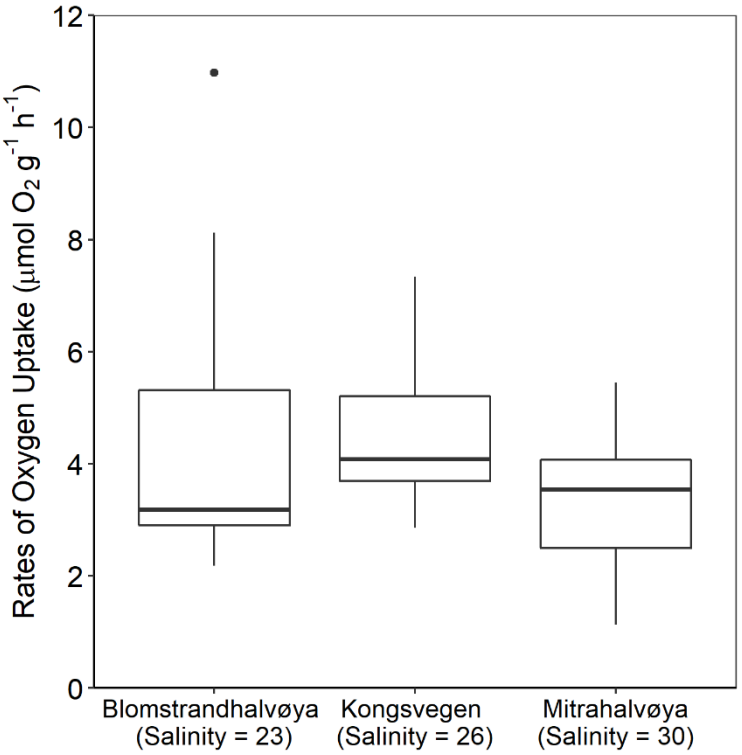

Figure 2. Rates of oxygen uptake (µmol O_2 g^{-1} h^{-1}) in two lower-salinity populations (Blomstrandhalvøya and Kongsvegen) and one higher-salinity population (Mitrahalvøya) of *Gammarus setosus* at the time of field capture. n = 9 for Blomstrandhalvøya, n = 7 for Kongsvegen and n = 8 for Mitrahalvøya. The plots show the median (line inside the box), the 25th and 75th percentiles (extent of boxes), maximum and minimum values within the 1.5x interquartile range (whiskers) and outliers (closed circle), exceeding the 1.5x interquartile range.

Population	Medium Osmolality (mOsm kg^{-1})	Haemolymph Osmolality (mOsm kg^{-1})	Na^+/K^+-ATPase activity (µmol ADP mg $Protein^{-1}$ h^{-1})
Blomstrandhalvøya (Lower-salinity)	685.6 (±14.79)	880.0 (±52.98)	3.164 (±0.401)
Kongsvegen (Lower-salinity)	779.7 (±40.25)	842.4 (±41.70)	3.181 (±0.221)
Mitrahalvøya (Higher-salinity)	928.0 (±13.20)	964.4 (±28.27)	2.359 (±0.605)

Table 3. Osmolality (mOsm kg^{-1}) of the water samples from the three collection sites (n=3 for each site), and haemolymph osmolality and coxal gill Na^+/K^+-ATPase activity (µmol ADP mg $Protein^{-1}$ h^{-1}) in the three populations of *Gammarus setosus* at the time of field capture (n = 8 for haemolymphs samples and n = 6 for Na^+/K^+-ATPase activity for each population). Values given as means with SEM in parenthesis.

3.1.2. Cellular Energy Allocation

Significant differences in CEA values were observed between the three populations of *G. setosus* ($F_{(2,21)}$=10.77, p=0.0001). CEA values were significantly higher in the higher-salinity Mitrahalvøya population than the lower-salinity Blomstrandhalvøya (p=0.003) and Kongsvegen (p=0.001) populations, with no significant differences between the two lower-salinity populations (p=0.949; Figure 3a).

Significant differences in energy consumption (E_c) were observed between the three populations of *G. setosus* ($F_{(2,21)}$=5.975, p=0.008). E_c was significantly lower in the higher-salinity population from Mitrahalvøya than the lower-salinity populations from Blomstrandhalvøya (p=0.013) and Kongsvegen (p=0.027), which showed no significant difference (p=0.945; Figure 3b). Likewise, significant differences in the energy available (E_a) were observed between the three populations of *G. setosus* ($F_{(2,21)}$=4.457, p=0.024). E_a was significantly higher in the higher-salinity Mitrahalvøya population than the lower-salinity Kongsvegen (p=0.024) population. No significant differences were observed between the

higher-salinity Mitrahalvøya population and the other lower-salinity Blomstrandhalvøya population (p=0.099), or between the two lower-salinity populations (p=0.776; Figure 3c).

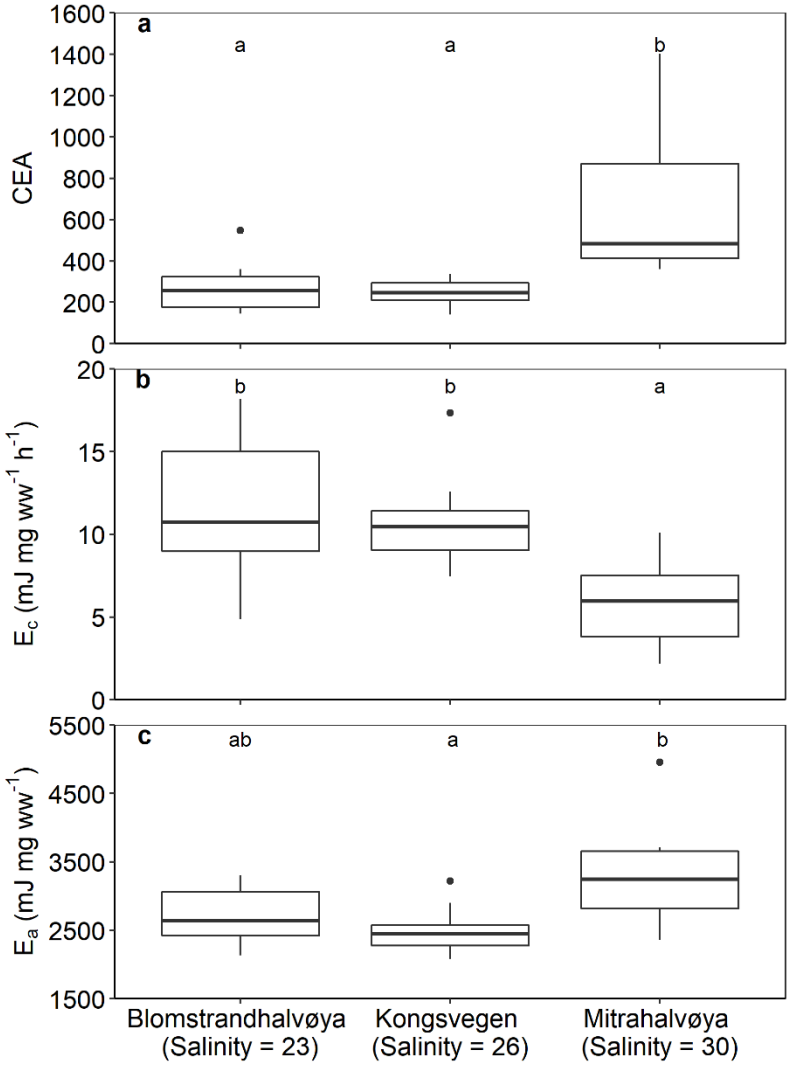

Figure 3. Cellular Energy Allocation (CEA) (a), energy consumption (Ec; mJ mg ww^{-1} h^{-1}) (b) and available energy (E_a; mJ mg ww^{-1}) (c) in two lower-salinity populations (Blomstrandhalvøya and Kongsvegen) and one higher-salinity population (Mitrahalvøya) of *Gammarus setosus* at the time of field capture. n = 8 for each population. The plots show the median (line inside the box), the 25th and 75th percentiles (extent of boxes), maximum and minimum values within the 1.5x interquartile range (whiskers) and outliers (closed circle), exceeding the 1.5x interquartile range. Different letters indicate significant differences between treatments (ANOVA, Tukey HSD post hoc, $p < 0.05$).

The differences in E_a among the populations reflects the variations in energy content associated with total protein and carbohydrate levels. Significant differences in the carbohydrate energy reserves were observed among the three populations of *G. setosus*

($F_{(2,21)}$=5.226, p=0.014). Carbohydrate energy reserves were significantly higher in the higher-salinity Mitrahalvøya population than the lower-salinity Blomstrandhalvøya (p=0.018) and Kongsvegen (p=0.046) populations, which were not significantly different from each other (p=0.900; Table 4). Significant differences in the protein energy reserves were also observed between the three populations of *G. setosus* ($F_{(2,21)}$=3.561, p=0.047), as protein energy reserves were significantly higher in the higher-salinity Mitrahalvøya population than the lower-salinity Kongsvegen (p=0.037) population. No significant differences in protein energy reserves were observed between the higher-salinity Mitrahalvøya population and the other lower-salinity Blomstrandhalvøya population (p=0.421), or between the two lower-salinity populations (p=0.365; Table 4). No significant differences in the lipid energy reserves were observed among the three populations of *G. setosus* ($F_{(2,21)}$=1.889, p=0.176; Table 4).

Population	Protein (mJ mg ww^{-1})	Lipid (mJ mg ww^{-1})	Carbohydrate (mJ mg ww^{-1})
Blomstrandhalvøya (Salinity = 23)	1350 (±64.25)^{b}	1308 (±192.5)	48.41 (±12.00)^{a}
Kongsvegen (Salinity = 26)	1185 (±80.44)^{a}	1264 (±160.2)	55.34 (±13.35)^{ab}
Mitrahalvøya (Salinity = 30)	1502 (±102.53)^{c}	1751 (±229.2)	95.86 (±7.21)^{b}

Table 4. Lipid, protein and carbohydrate energy equivalents (mJ mg ww^{-1}) in three populations of *Gammarus setosus* at the time of field capture. n = 8 for each population. Values given as means with SEM in parenthesis. Different letters indicate significant differences between treatments.

3.2. Laboratory Experiments

3.2.1 Metabolic responses

Oxygen uptake rates measured after laboratory exposure experiments were influenced by an interaction between salinity and population, as well as by pCO_2 (Figure 4, S1 and S2). Low salinity significantly increased oxygen uptake rates in individuals from the higher-salinity Mitrahalvøya population (p=0.0023), but not in individuals from the lower-salinity Kongsvegen (p=1.000) or Blomstrandhalvøya (p=0.229) populations. Oxygen uptake rates

were also lower in individuals exposed to elevated pCO_2 (7.62±0.66 µmol O_2 g^{-1} h^{-1}) than in individuals exposed to ambient pCO_2 levels (9.26±0.64 µmol O_2 g^{-1} h^{-1}).

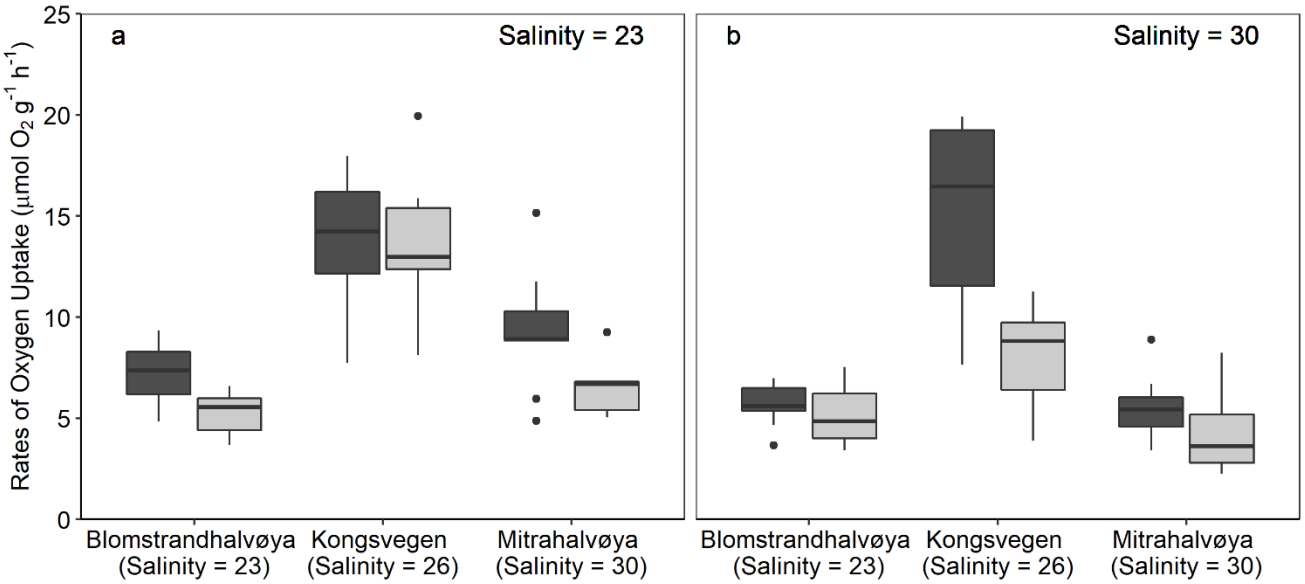

Figure 4. Oxygen uptake rates (µmol O_2 g^{-1} h^{-1}) in two lower-salinity populations (Blomstrandhalvøya and Kongsvegen) and one higher-salinity population (Mitrahalvøya) of *Gammarus setosus* after 28 days exposure to a salinity of 23 (a) or 30 (b) and/or ambient (400 µatm; black bars) or elevated (1000 µatm; grey bars) pCO_2. n=9 for each treatment except for Mitrahalvøya (S=23/elevated pCO_2), Blomstrandhalvøya (S=30/elevated pCO_2) and Kongsvegen (S=30/ambient pCO_2, S=23/ambient pCO_2, and S=30/elevated pCO_2), where n=8. The plots show the median (line inside the box), the 25th and 75th percentiles (extent of boxes), maximum and minimum values within the 1.5x interquartile range (whiskers) and outliers (closed circle), exceeding the 1.5x interquartile range.

3.2.2. Osmoregulatory responses

After laboratory exposure experiments, only salinity had a significant effect on coxal gill Na^+/K^+-ATPase (Tables S1 and S2), with activity levels around 1.5 times higher at a salinity of 23 compared with a salinity of 30 (Figure 5). Haemolymph osmolality varied according to salinity, pCO_2 and population (Tables 5, S1 and S2). Haemolymph osmolality was around 165 mOsm kg^{-1} higher in individuals held at salinity 30, compared with individuals held at salinity 23, and around 30 mOsm kg^{-1} higher in individuals held at elevated pCO_2, compared with individuals held at ambient pCO_2. Across all treatments, individuals from the lowest-salinity

Blomstrandhalvøya population had significantly higher haemolymph osmolality than individuals from the Mitrahalvøya population (p<0.0001) and the Kongsvegen population (p<0.0001). There were no significant differences in haemolymph osmolality among individuals from the Mitrahalvøya population Kongsvegen population (p=0.538).

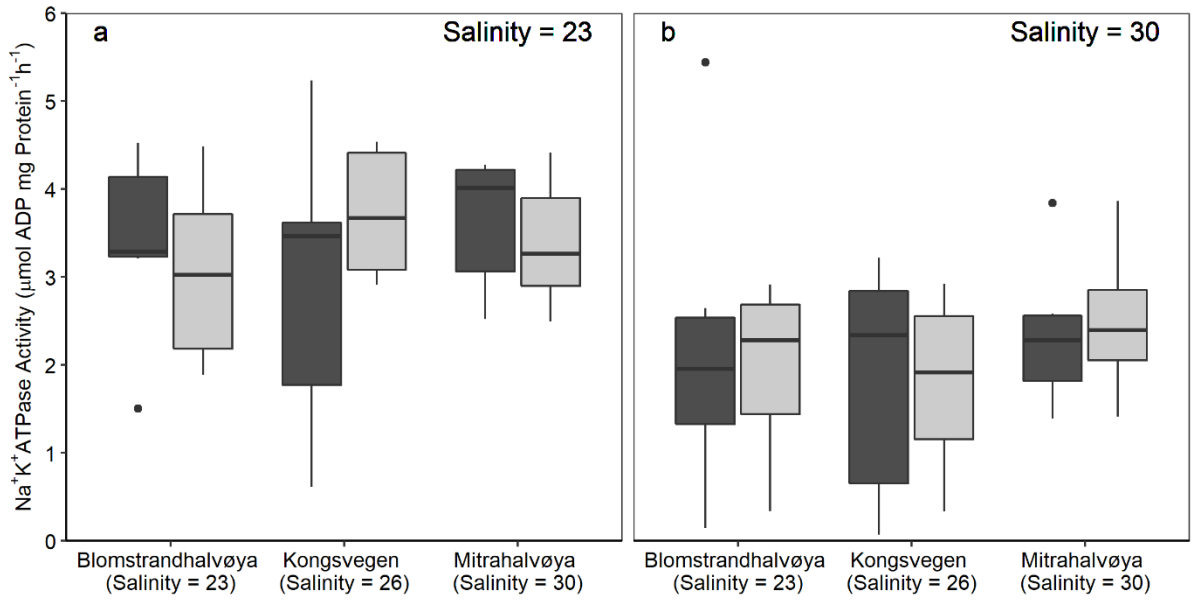

Figure 5. Na^+/K^+-ATPase activity (µmol ADP mg Protein^{-1} h^{-1}) in two lower-salinity populations (Blomstrandhalvøya and Kongsvegen) and one higher-salinity population (Mitrahalvøya) of *Gammarus setosus* after 28 days exposure to a salinity of 23 (a) or 30 (b) and/or ambient (400 µatm; black bars) or elevated (1000 µatm; grey bars) pCO_2 (n=6 for each treatment). The plots show the median (line inside the box), the 25th and 75th percentiles (extent of boxes), maximum and minimum values within the 1.5x interquartile range (whiskers) and outliers (closed circle), exceeding the 1.5x interquartile range.

Population	Salinity	pCO_2	Medium Osmolality (mOsm kg^{-1})	Haemolymph Osmolality (mOsm kg^{-1})
Blomstrandhalvøya (Lower-salinity)	30	Ambient	931.2 (6.676)	983.2 (10.94)
	30	Elevated	940.7 (10.13)	992.8 (96.97)
	23	Ambient	641.3 (9.493)	800.8 (22.38)
	23	Elevated	653.8 (6.85)	811.5 (61.53)
Kongsvegen (Lower-salinity)	30	Ambient	926.1 (7.88)	915.3 (17.35)
	30	Elevated	934.8 (6.797)	948.0 (45.34)
	23	Ambient	648.8 (10.129)	701.3 (19.05)
	23	Elevated	653.3 (9.074)	721.0 (30.94)
Mitrahalvøya (Higher-salinity)	30	Ambient	920.0 (7.578)	841.5 (28.47)
	30	Elevated	927.7 (9.477)	897.8 (28.12)

	23	Ambient	645.3 (8.257)	697.5 (11.5)
	23	Elevated	646.33 (7.745)	744.8 (12.20)

Table 5. Osmolality (mOsm kg^{-1}) of the water samples from each treatment and haemolymph in the three populations of *Gammarus setosus* after 28 days exposure to a salinity of 23 or 30 and/or ambient (400µatm) or elevated (1000 µatm) pCO_2. n = 6 for each treatment. Values given as means with SEM in parenthesis.

3.2.3. Cellular energy allocation

Salinity was the only factor to significantly affect CEA (Tables S1 and S2) with CEA values 5.2 times higher in amphipods held at salinity 30 compared with those held at salinity 23 (Figure 6a). Energy consumption (E_c) and energy available (E_a) varied according to population and salinity (Figure 6b,c; Tables S1 and S2). E_c was 2.3 times higher in amphipods held at salinity 23 compared with amphipods held at salinity 30. Individuals from the lower-salinity Kongsvegen population had significantly lower E_c than individuals from the higher-salinity Mitrahalvøya population (p=0.012). There were no significant differences in E_c between individuals from the two lower-salinity Blomstrandhalvøya and Kongsvegen populations (p=0.225) or between individuals from the lower-salinity Blomstrandhalvøya and the high-salinity Mitrahalvøya population (p=0.322). E_a was 1.3 times higher in amphipods held at salinity 30 compared with amphipods held at salinity 23. Individuals from the lower-salinity Kongsvegen population had significantly lower E_a than individuals from the higher-salinity Mitrahalvøya population (p<0.001) and the other lower-salinity Blomstrandhalvøya population (p<0.001), which were not significantly different (p=0.996).

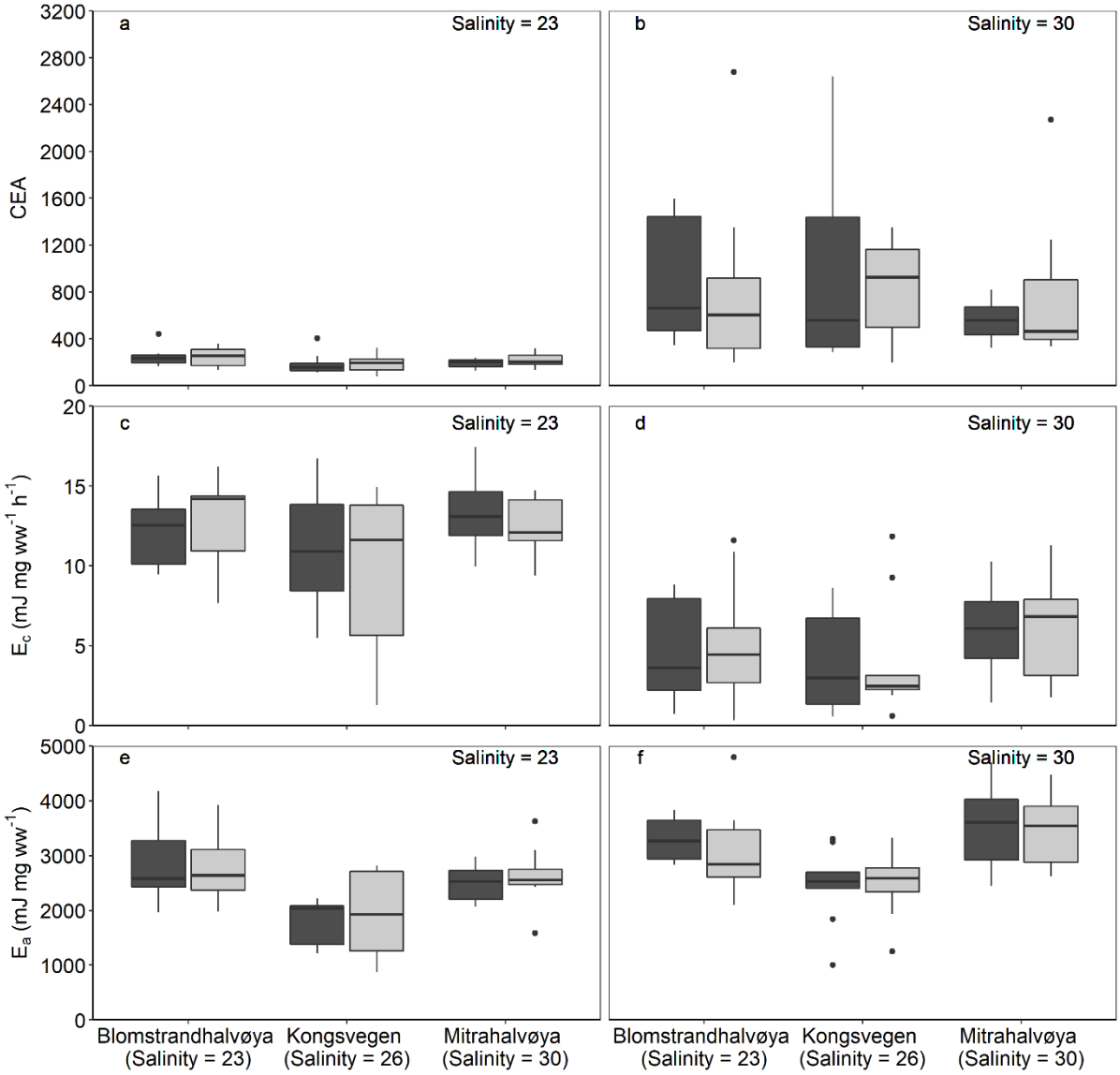

Figure 6. Cellular Energy Allocation (CEA) (a,b), energy consumption (E_c; mJ mg ww^{-1} h^{-1}) (c,d) and available energy (E_a; mJ mg ww^{-1}) (e,f) in two lower-salinity populations (Blomstrandhalvøya and Kongsvegen) and one higher-salinity population (Mitrahalvøya) of *Gammarus setosus*. Amphipods exposed for 28 days to a salinity of 23 (a, c, and e), or 30 (b, d, and f). Within each panel, values are given for exposure to ambient pCO_2 (400 µatm; black bars) or elevated pCO_2 (1000 µatm; grey bars). n = 9 for each treatment. The plots show the median (line inside the box), the 25th and 75th percentiles (extent of boxes), maximum and minimum values within the 1.5x interquartile range (whiskers) and outliers (closed circle), exceeding the 1.5x interquartile range.

Protein and lipid energy reserves varied with salinity and population, and carbohydrate energy reserves varied only with salinity (Tables 6, S1 and S2). Protein, lipid and carbohydrate energy reserves were significantly higher in individuals held at salinity 30 compared to salinity

503 23. Amphipods from the lower-salinity Kongsvegen population had significantly lower lipid
504 and protein energy reserves than individuals from the other lower-salinity Blomstrandhalvøya
505 population (protein: p=0.0004; lipid: p<0.001) and the higher-salinity Mitrahalvøya population
506 (protein: p=0.002; lipid: p<0.001). No significant differences were observed in lipid and
507 protein energy reserves between individuals from the lower-salinity Blomstrandhalvøya and
508 higher-salinity Mitrahalvøya populations (protein: p=0.535; lipid: p=0.958).

509

Population	Salinity	pCO_2	Protein (mJ mg ww^{-1})	Lipid (mJ mg ww^{-1})	Carbohydrate (mJ mg ww^{-1})
Blomstrandhalvøya (Lower-salinity)	30	Ambient	1516 (98.63)	1661 (148.5)	104.8 (13.36)
	30	Elevated	1440 (196.2)	1547 (212.4)	102.5 (12.75)
	23	Ambient	1423 (76.09)	1394 (177.8)	56.80 (8.774)
	23	Elevated	1354 (99.55)	1428 (187.8)	61.45 (13.52)
Kongsvegen (Lower-salinity)	30	Ambient	1282 (110.5)	1077 (162.0)	89.45 (7.558)
	30	Elevated	1361 (78.48)	1018 (185.9)	97.87 (8.266)
	23	Ambient	960.5 (140.8)	746.8 (111.1)	58.63 (9.995)
	23	Elevated	1080 (136.8)	788.5 (178.6)	62.70 (13.40)
Mitrahalvøya (Higher-salinity)	30	Ambient	1637 (63.47)	1796 (239.8)	102.4 (9.196)
	30	Elevated	1575 (152.2)	1820 (156.8)	99.72 (13.88)
	23	Ambient	1233 (74.78)	1215 (136.5)	44.78 (6.852)
	23	Elevated	1222 (68.51)	1336 (201.0)	61.94 (7.842)

510

511 **Table 6.** Lipid, protein and carbohydrate energy equivalents (mJ mg ww^{-1}) in three populations
512 of *Gammarus setosus* after 28 days exposure to the four salinity/CO_2 combinations: Salinity of
513 either 23 or 30; pCO_2 of either ambient, 400 µatm, or elevated pCO_2, 1000 µatm. n = 9 for each
514 treatment. Values given as means with SEM in parenthesis.
515

516 **4. Discussion**

517 Summer field sampling revealed that populations of the circumpolar arctic/subarctic amphipod
518 *G. setosus* inhabiting a salinity gradient in the Kongsfjorden-Krossfjorden region of western
519 Svalbard had similar levels of coxal Na^+/K^+-ATPase activities and haemolymph osmolality,
520 suggesting no differences in osmoregulatory capacity. Cellular energy budgets, however, were
521 lower in the two populations living within Kongsfjorden and experiencing lower salinity.
522 Amphipods from these populations had higher levels of cellular energy consumption (E_c) and

lower cellular energy reserves (E_a), but similar whole-organism rates of oxygen uptake. In the laboratory, low salinity had a similar effect across all populations, with reductions in CEA coinciding with higher Na^+/K^+ ATPase activities and higher E_c. Low salinity exposer also resulted in elevated whole-organism metabolic costs (indicated by higher rates of oxygen uptake) but only in amphipods from Mitrahalvøya that are not naturally exposed to the same low salinities as amphipods from the other sites. An elevation in pCO_2 in the laboratory had no effect on Na^+/K^+ ATPase activities, or on CEA, but it did increase haemolymph osmolality, and resulted in lower rates of oxygen uptake in amphipods from all populations. Unlike previous studies, there were no interactions between pCO_2 and salinity (Rastrick et al., 2018a; Whiteley et al., 2018). The relevance of the independent effects of salinity and pCO_2 on amphipod osmoregulatory capacity and the likely repercussions on energy budgets and fitness is discussed below.

4.1. Effects of salinity

The similarity in coxal gill Na^+/K^+ ATPase activities among the three populations of *G. setosus* in the field plus the similarity in response to low salinity in the laboratory, suggests a lack of diversity in osmoregulatory capacities, despite differences in salinity exposures in the natural environment. The values for Na^+/K^+ ATPase activities in the field compared favourably with the values obtained from amphipods acclimated to low salinity for one month in the laboratory (S = 23), and were noticeably higher than the amphipods acclimated to full strength seawater (S = 30). Active ion uptake is well known to increase in osmoregulating crustaceans in response to low salinity exposure taking on average 7 hours to increase and remaining elevated for as long as the exposures last, even up to 12 months (Henry et al., 2012; Whiteley et al., 2018). It appears that *G. setosus* showed the same response under controlled conditions, indicating that they rely on ion exchange processes driven by increasing Na^+/K^+-ATPase activities under low salinity, just like other strong osmoregulators, including other gammarid species (Brooks and

548 Mills, 2006; Henry et al., 2012). The pattern of haemolymph osmolality reflects that of a strong
549 hyper-iso-osmoregulator i.e. haemolymph isosmotic with the external medium in the high
550 salinity treatment, but hyperosmotic to the external medium in the low salinity treatment
551 (Henry et al., 2012). This is not surprising that *G. setosus* is a strong hyper-isoosmoregulator
552 as it occurs in estuaries and upper tidal pools in northern areas and can survive in the surface
553 melt water of northern seas (Steele and Steele, 1970; Ingólfsson, 1977). The relatively high
554 Na^+/K^+-ATPase activities observed in amphipods from the higher-salinity Mitrahalvøya
555 population indicate that they maybe exposed to occasional bouts of low salinity, despite
556 average salinities being higher than at the other sites.

557 Regardless of the similarity in active ion uptake across the populations in the field,
558 energy budgets differed due to higher E_c and lower E_a values in the lower-salinity populations.
559 Elevations in E_c signify an increase in energy expenditure, which are likely to result from
560 relatively high Na^+/K^+-ATPase activities, as this ion transporting pump is energetically
561 demanding being estimated to consume between 11 and 21% of total oxygen uptake in the
562 freshwater gammarid amphipod *Gammarus pulex* (Sutcliffe, 1984). However, the similarity in
563 Na^+/K^+-ATPase activities across all populations, suggests that other osmoregulatory
564 adjustments may also occur in the low salinity populations to account for reductions in E_c. This
565 could include the mobilisation of osmotically active solutes, such as amino acids, which are
566 estimated to consume around 12% of daily energy use in the intertidal copepod (Goolish and
567 Burton, 1989). Reductions in surface permeability may also play a role in the longer-term,
568 although this response is considered less energetically demanding than increases in active ion
569 uptake (Rivera-Ingraham and Lignot, 2017), but has been reported previously in *G. setosus* and
570 other species of gammarid amphipod (Lockwood and Inman, 1973; Bolt, 1983). The small
571 differences in E_a between the lower-salinity Kongsvegen population and the higher-salinity
572 Mitrahalvøya population in the field were primarily driven by reductions in total protein energy

573 reserves. This observation suggests that *G. setosus* metabolises proteins during increased E_c,
574 similar to *Callinectes danae* (Ramaglia et al., 2018). However, total carbohydrate and protein
575 energy reserves could also be influenced by other factors, such as feeding rates, growth, diet,
576 moult stage, stage of the life cycle etc (Fraser and Rogers, 2007; Jimenez and Kinsey, 2015).
577 As these amphipods were studied in the field and their growth and nutritional history remains
578 unknown, these relationships require further investigation.

579 Acclimation studies confirmed that low salinity was responsible for increasing E_c and
580 reducing E_a in all 3 populations of *G. setosus*, regardless of habitat salinity. The increase in E_c
581 at low salinity coincided with an increase in coxal gill Na^+/K^+-ATPase activities demonstrating
582 the importance of energy demanding enzymes in maintaining haemolymph osmolality, and
583 hence physiological homeostasis, in the face of salinity change in *G. setosus*. Low-salinity
584 increases in E_c, however, were not matched by an associated increase in whole-organism rates
585 of oxygen uptake, unlike previous studies where metabolic rates in gammarid amphipods
586 increased under low salinity (e.g. Dorgelo, 1973; Normant et al., 2004; Normant and
587 Lamprecht, 2006). Such studies, however, involved exposures to lower salinities for shorter
588 periods ($\leq$ 1 week), suggesting that the amphipods were not fully acclimated to the new salinity,
589 and metabolic adjustments were still taking place. The increase in energy expenditure at the
590 cellular level at constant rates of whole-organism oxygen uptake suggest an increase in
591 mitochondrial efficiency, and hence the capacity to generate ATP. There is an increasing
592 realisation that mitochondrial efficiencies, taken as the amount of ATP generated per unit of
593 oxygen consumed, are plastic and can vary between tissues, individuals and species, as well as
594 in response to environmental change (reviewed by Salin et al., 2015). Although much of the
595 information about environmental effects come from studies on temperature and starvation,
596 increases in mitochondrial efficiency would benefit amphipods experiencing prolonged
597 exposure to low salinity in their natural environments. As salinity had no effect on whole-

organism rates of oxygen uptake, it is also possible that energy was reallocated to osmoregulation from other ATP demanding processes, such as growth and reproduction, as described under acidified conditions in juvenile European lobsters, *Homarus gammarus* (Small et al., 2020), and larval sea urchins, *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus* (Pan et al., 2015). However, trade-offs at the cellular level seem unlikely because of the increase in E_c at low salinity. Interestingly, low salinity acclimation increased oxygen uptake rates in the higher-salinity population from Mitrahalvøya. Amphipods from this population may be more sensitive to the salinity change, probably because biochemical adjustments in mitochondrial efficiency were less marked, and/or energy reallocation at the whole-organism level was less likely. Regardless, the increase in metabolic rate indicates increased demand for ATP at the whole animal level leading to increased food requirements.

The decrease in E_a during low salinity exposure occurred primarily due to lower total protein and lipid energy reserves. However, it is interesting to note that energy reserves were higher in amphipods held in the laboratory at both salinities and under ambient CO_2, than the values measured at their respective salinities in the field. It is likely that amphipods held in the laboratory and receiving food on a regular basis, were better fed than the field amphipods and hence were better able to maintain their energy reserves against increased energy expenditure. The decline in E_a may also indicate changes in the turnover of protein and lipids due to trade-offs with the energy requirements for osmoregulation. For instance, protein turnover (protein synthesis vs degradation) is an important determinant of growth, and is an energetically costly process, consuming between 11 and 42% of resting oxygen uptake (Houlihan et al., 1995) and accounts for 28% of oxygen uptake in the closely related amphipod *Gammarus oceanicus* from Kongsfjorden (Rastrick and Whiteley, 2017). Moreover, salinity is known to influence whole-organism protein synthesis rates, as demonstrated in juvenile freshwater prawns (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) where exposure to freshwater resulted in increased gill Na^+/K^+-

623 ATPase activities, but a decline in protein synthesis rates, suggesting a reallocation of energy
624 to ion regulation (Intanai et al., 2009). As proteins and lipids are key for growth and
625 reproduction (D'Abramo et al., 1997), the reduction in both reserves in low salinity is likely to
626 negatively impact both of these important ecological processes.

627 **4.2. Effect of elevated CO_2**

628 Elevated pCO_2 had no effect on active ion uptake in amphipods held in the laboratory, as
629 reported in the shore crab, *Carcinus meanas* (Whiteley et al., 2018), and also the European
630 lobster, *H. gammarus* (Small et al., 2020). Collectively, these observations suggest that this
631 energy demanding enzyme is unlikely to contribute to the costs associated with haemolymph
632 acid-base regulation during exposure to elevated CO_2 (Whiteley, 2011; Small et al., 2020). In
633 contrast, the laboratory experiments revealed that elevated pCO_2 increased haemolymph
634 osmolality in all three populations. This response is likely to be associated with the various ion
635 transporting mechanisms responsible for both acid base and ion regulation in crustacean gills
636 (reviewed by Whiteley, 2011). It is also possible that the external elevation in pCO_2 led to
637 amino acid catabolism and increased ammonia excretion which is also reported to buffer
638 haemolymph pH under high CO_2 (Fehsenfeld and Weihrauch, 2016). Such a response was
639 observed in *C. maenas* where exposure to elevated CO_2 reduced intracellular osmolytes similar
640 to the changes expected from low salinity exposure (Hammer et al., 2012). It is possible that
641 adjustments in small organic osmolytes are a common high CO_2 response in aquatic
642 crustaceans.

643 The lack of effect of pCO_2 on the cellular energy budget and its components, further
644 demonstrates that the energetic costs associated with maintaining acid-base status in *G. setosus*
645 over one month were insignificant at the cellular level. This is in contrast to the situation in
646 juvenile lobsters (*Homarus americanus*) where an increase in ETS activity was attributed to

the maintenance of physiological homeostasis i.e. acid-base balance and calcification rates, both of which use ATP demanding ion pumps (Menu-Courey et al., 2019). Elevated pCO_2 also resulted in lower rates of whole-organism oxygen uptake rates in amphipods from all populations. Another gammarid amphipod *Gammarus locusta* showed a similar response at pCO_2 levels of 800-900 µatm (Borges, 2018). Metabolic depression represents a short-term survival strategy to protect energy reserves under stressful conditions which is thought to be a characteristic of species more sensitive to elevated CO_2, such as polar species (Kelley and Lunden, 2017). Polar species, such as *G. setosus*, are also characterised by lower aerobic scopes and limited capacities to increase metabolic rates with, for example, increases in environmental temperature (Rastrick and Whiteley 2011). Perhaps reductions in metabolic rate may be maintained more permanently in circumpolar environments, due to more stable, low temperature (i.e kinetic) conditions. However further longer-term studies are required to appreciate whether the lower metabolic rates observed here are transitory, or more permanent. For instance, both the deep-water, northern prawn *Pandalus borealis* and the hermit crab *Pagurus tanneri* can compensate metabolic rates over time under high CO_2 (Kelley and Lunden, 2017). Changes in mitochondrial efficiency have also been observed under elevated CO_2 over time as suggested in intertidal mussels *Mytilus edulis* and *M. arenaria*, and clams *Mercenaria mercenaria*, but this remains to be investigated in *G. setosus* (Sokolova, 2018).

5. Conclusion

In the field, populations of the circumpolar arctic/subarctic gammarid amphipod *G. setosus* inhabiting sites with different salinities, showed no differences in ion-transporting capacity, but lower-salinity populations had lower energy budgets than the higher-salinity population. In the laboratory, reduced salinity decreased energy budgets in amphipods from all 3 populations, but metabolic rates increased in amphipods from the higher-salinity population at Mitrahalvøya

indicating sensitivity to salinity change. Elevated CO_2 did not interact with salinity and had little effect on ion-transporting capacities, but increased haemolymph osmolality. Rates of oxygen uptake decreased under elevated CO_2, which probably helped to preserve cellular energy budgets, as CEA remained unchanged. Overall, reductions in salinity from freshening appear more likely than elevated CO_2 to reduce cellular energy budgets in a circumpolar arctic/subarctic species, which could have wider implications for fjord ecosystems in general. The low-salinity driven decrease in energy budgets, and in particular, protein and lipid energy reserves, suggests longer term implications for growth and reproductive fitness in amphipods from the lower-salinity populations within Kongsfjorden. However, the 28-day exposure period could be considered a short time frame over which responses can occur and therefore longer-term and trans-generational experiments are also needed to fully understand whether further adjustments can occur within and across generations. Studies are now underway to investigate the added effects of increased temperature, to further investigate whether *G. setosus* will be able to survive the full range of environmental changes occurring in fjord ecosystems, such as those represented by Kongsfjorden-Krossfjorden in Svalbard.

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