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7 **Water stress affects development time but not take-off performance in the butterfly**

8 *Pararge aegeria*

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28 **Running head**: Water stress and locomotion in *P. aegeria*

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30 **Keywords**: locomotion, development, dehydration, butterfly

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34 **Abstract**

35 Most organisms are limited in the amount and type of resources that they are able to extract

36 from the environment. The juvenile environment is particularly important in this regard, as

37 conditions over ontogeny can influence the adult phenotype. Whole-organism performance

38 traits such as locomotion are susceptible to such environmental effects, yet the specific biotic

39 and abiotic factors driving performance plasticity have received little attention. We tested

40 whether speckled wood *Pararge aegeria* L. butterflies reared under conditions of water stress

41 exhibited poorer flight morphology and performance than control individuals. Despite large

42 differences in mortality between treatments, we found no effects of water stress treatment on

43 take-off performance, and only minor treatment effects on flight morphology. However,

44 butterflies reared on water-stressed diets exhibited both significantly greater mortality and

45 longer development times than did control individuals. *Pararge aegeria* larvae may compensate

46 for this stress by prolonging development, resulting in similar realized performance capacities at

47 least in take-off performance in surviving adult butterflies; other measures of flight performance

48 remain to be considered. Alternatively, the adult phenotype may be insulated from

49 environmental effects at the larval stage in these insects.

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67   **Introduction**

68   The juvenile environment can have important effects on both the developmental trajectories

69   and resultant adult phenotypes of organisms (West-Eberhard 2003). The specific biotic and

70   abiotic environmental factors driving this plasticity vary in both type and effect, and include diet

71   quality and quantity, population demography, and density, amongst others (Kasumovic 2013).

72   Juvenile diet affects development time, calling effort, and longevity in the cricket *Teleogryllus*

73   *commodus* (Hunt et al. 2004), as does the juvenile social environment, with individuals

74   dynamically adjusting investment in certain life-history traits in response to adult male density

75   (Kasumovic et al. 2012; Kasumovic et al. 2011). In some cases, stresses in the juvenile

76   environment can have long-term effects on the individual phenotype that persist even after the

77   stressor has been alleviated. For example, *Xiphophorus helleri* fish raised in resource-limited

78   environments experience significant locomotor costs as adults, even in adult environments with

79   ample dietary resources (Royle et al. 2006). Understanding variation in the adult phenotype

80   therefore requires explicit consideration of the effects of environmental factors on juvenile

81   development. But while the effects of type and extent of variation in diet quality and quantity

82   on phenotypic expression are increasingly well understood - particularly since the introduction

83   of the nutritional geometric dietary framework (Raubenheimer and Simpson 2003; Simpson and

84   Raubenheimer 1993) - other potentially important effectors of plasticity have received little

85   attention. Dehydration, for example, has potentially serious consequences for physiology, life-

86   history, and fitness (Gatten and Clark 1989; Moore and Gatten 1989), yet effects of the juvenile

87   hydric environment on the development and maintenance of the adult phenotype are poorly

88   understood in most animal species.

89   Whole-organism performance traits (defined as any quantitative measure of how well

90   an animal performs a dynamic, ecologically relevant task such as jumping, flying, or biting;

91   Bennett and Huey 1990; Lailvaux and Irschick 2006) are important phenotypic intermediaries

92   between the organism and the environment, as well as key determinants of individual fitness in

93   a variety of ecological contexts (reviewed in Husak and Fox 2008; Irschick et al. 2008). Although

94   performance is conceptualized primarily as a function of morphology (Arnold 1983), an

95   emerging literature shows that the expression of whole-organism performance is often plastic

96   and thus susceptible to numerous biotic and abiotic influences (reviewed in Lailvaux and Husak

97   2014). Furthermore, there is an increasing appreciation that performance exists within an

98   integrated multivariate phenotype (Ghalambor et al. 2003), and is therefore linked functionally,

99   genetically, and developmentally with multiple other key predictors of survival and fitness

100   (Ghalambor et al. 2004; Lailvaux et al. 2010). An important challenge is therefore not only to

101   characterise the relationships between performance and other critical fitness-related traits, but

102   also to determine how those relationships might be affected by the same environmental factors

103   that influence performance expression and maintenance (Lailvaux and Husak 2014).

104   Although a handful of studies have reported effects of the juvenile environment on

105   adult whole-organism performance in vertebrates (e.g. Garenc et al. 1999; Le Galliard et al.

106   2004; Royle et al. 2006; Yan et al. 2015), equivalent studies on invertebrates are scarce (but see

107   Reaney and Knell 2015 for an example). Larval conditions in invertebrates such as

108   holometabolous insects may be even more important to adult locomotor performance than in

109   most vertebrates because the imaginal discs giving rise to adult morphological structures in

110   insect larvae are directly affected by larval nutritional state and environment (Zera and

111   Harshman 2001). For example, the sizes of horns and surrounding morphological structures in

112   adult dung beetles are determined prior to eclosion, and thus affected by the amount and type

113   of resources accrued during the beetle larval stage (Emlen 2001; Nijhout and Emlen 1998).

114   Development times can also be prolonged in resource-poor environments, in some cases to

115   allow longer periods of compensatory feeding (Awmack and Leather 2002). If morphological

116   structures affecting locomotion are similarly susceptible to variation in the larval environment,

117   then those environmental conditions experienced by larvae could have long-term consequences

118   for adult performance as well (Hughes et al. 2004). On the other hand, environmental effects on

119   the phenotype, such as that of temperature, can also be uncoupled from one stage to the next

120   in some insects with complex life-cycles (Potter et al. 2011). We currently lack a proper

121   understanding of the developmental effects of the juvenile environment on adult whole-

122   organism performance in holometabolous insects.

123   Animals face numerous challenges regarding water balance, and water availability limits

124   both the distribution and density of many animal species (Hawkins et al. 2003). Episodes of

125   severe drought, particularly in combination with other environmental factors such as habitat

126   fragmentation, have significant effects on butterfly population dynamics (Oliver et al. 2015; Tack

127   et al. 2015) and life-history and morphology (Gibbs et al. 2012). Insects possess several

128   adaptations to deal with osmotic challenges (e.g. Duncan and Byrne 2005; Kestler 1985),

129   including an extra-embryonic serosa in the egg stage (Ferguson et al. 2014; Jacobs et al. 2013).

130   Despite studies on such adaptations, the effects of dehydration and drought on key behavioural

131 and performance traits linked to fitness have received remarkably little attention, having been

132 addressed only indirectly at best (Vande Velde et al. 2013).

133   We tested the hypothesis that larval water availability affects both development and

134 adult flight morphology and performance in the speckled wood butterfly, *Pararge aegeria* L.

135 (Nymphalidae). This organism is a well-established model system in ecology and evolution, and

136 was recently identified as one of the 6 drought-sensitive butterfly species in the UK that shows

137 particularly slow recovery from repeat drought events in fragmented landscapes (Oliver et al.

138 2015). Flight is used in a variety of contexts in *P. aegeria*, from territorial defence in males to

139 oviposition behaviour (i.e. searching for relevant host plants) in females. Females in those

140 drought-sensitive fragmented landscapes not only rely on flight more compared to females in

141 woodland areas, but they also appear to exhibit a different wing morphology than woodland

142 females, possibly due to plasticity (Gibbs et al. 2010). Finally, flight is energetically costly, and

143 trades-off with both fecundity and, possibly, immunity in female *P. aergeria* (Gibbs et al. 2010).

144 This species is therefore an ideal organism for studying drought effects on flight performance, as

145 well as the potential life-history trade-offs involved.

146   We used a high-speed video camera to quantify take-off performance of adult

147 butterflies raised to maturity from caterpillars maintained on two different substrates: normally

148 hydrated (control) and water-stressed (treatment) grasses. We measured several aspects of

149 take-off performance, as locomotion is a multivariate phenomenon (Lailvaux and Irschick 2006,

150 2007), and hence water-stress effects may be reflected in any of a number of performance

151 characteristics. Specifically we predicted that, relative to individuals reared on controls,

152 individuals raised on dry, water-stressed grasses would exhibit (1) longer development times; (2)

153 altered morphological variables related to flight performance (wing aspect ratio, thorax weight

154 and wing loading); and (3) compromised take-off kinetics (velocity, acceleration and power) and

155 kinematics (time to peak velocity, time to peak acceleration and time to peak power).

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157 **Methods**

158 *Experimental animals*

159 The butterflies were derived from an outbred laboratory stock population of Belgian *P. aegeria*

160 butterflies, and reared under carefully controlled conditions in a growth chamber allowing for

161 direct development (temperature day/night: 23°C/18°C, 75% humidity, light:dark photoperiod

162 18:6 hr) on the grass species *Poa trivialis*. *Pararge aegeria* feed on grasses in nature (Shreeve

163   1986), and *P. trivialis* is a commonly used as a laboratory food source for these butterflies.

164   Caterpillars in the control group were reared on grass plants had had full access to water.

165   Caterpillars in the treatment group were reared on plants that had been drought-stressed and

166   deprived of water for 30 days immediately prior (c.f. Talloen et al. 2004). (For further details on

167   drought-stressed plant rearing using *P. aegeria* see Gibbs et al. 2012, who used a 20 day period).

168   All plants had been sown on a standard soil substrate in plastic jars (18 x 18cm). The plants from

169   both treatment groups experienced common environmental conditions, and their position was

170   randomized every three days so as to avoid possible confounding factors due to slight but

171   unavoidable micro-climatological/environmental differences within the growth chamber. Each

172   individual plant was enclosed in fine-mesh netting.

173   Four first-instar larvae were transferred to a single grass plant within twelve hours of

174   egg hatching. This density of same-aged caterpillars ensured a food supply without unequal

175   competition among the caterpillars (c.f. Breuker et al. 2007b), thereby minimizing variability in

176   the ability to uptake resources. As a higher mortality was expected with the water-stress

177   treatment group, 32 larvae were assigned to the control group, and 72 to the treatment group.

178   In total, 28 larvae successfully completed development in the control diet group (87.5% survival)

179   but only 31 successfully developed in the low quality diet group (43.1% survival). Following

180   eclosion, but prior to performance measurements, adult butterflies were placed in individual

181   pots within a low temperature (10 $^{\circ}$C) growth chamber to minimize activity, and given *ad libitum*

182   access to a 15% sugar solution. Only animals with fully expanded wings were used in the

183   experiment (see below). Because some time was required for the wings to properly dry and

184   expand, and because large numbers of adults sometimes emerged simultaneously, flight

185   performance could not always be measured immediately after emergence (although in all cases

186   we measured performance as soon as possible), and there is therefore variation in post-

187   emergence time for both diet treatments. To control for this, we recorded the time in days

188   between emergence and measurement for each individual, and included this variable as a

189   covariate in statistical analyses. After the performance measurements, animals were killed in a -

190   20 $^{\circ}$C freezer and dissected for morphological measurements.

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192   *Flight performance*

193   We measured flight performance of adult *P. aegeria* butterflies using methods similar to those

194   of Berwaerts and Van Dyck (2004). All take-off trials were performed within a constant

195 temperature room at a temperature of 29 °C, which is close to the optimal flight temperature

196 for this species (Berwaerts and Van Dyck 2004). Individuals were kept in the temperature room

197 for 30 minutes prior to performance measurement to ensure thermal equilibrium with the room

198 temperature (Merckx et al. 2006). We placed butterflies within a small 5cm x 15cm x 15cm clear

199 plastic flightway and induced them to take off from the ground up by tapping them with a pencil

200 (following Berwaerts et al. 2008; Berwaerts and Van Dyck 2004). This chamber was large enough

201 to allow normal behaviour during take-off (the performance stage of interest) without any

202 danger of hitting the walls during that initial take-off period, yet narrow enough that it

203 encouraged individuals to initiate flight forward in roughly the same direction. A high-speed

204 Redlake camera facing the flightway in lateral view filmed each take-off at a recording speed of

205 250 frames per second. We placed a mirror at a 45° angle above the flightway to facilitate the

206 simultaneous filming of both dorsal and lateral views. This provided us with two 2-dimensional

207 flight trajectories, which we later merged into a single 3-dimensional view of each take-off using

208 Pythagoras's rule (Lailvaux et al. 2010; Lailvaux et al. 2011). Scaling was done using 1cm x 1cm

209 grids taped to the cage. To obtain maximum performance values, we filmed each individual

210 taking off three times from a standstill with a 20 minute break between take-offs (see Losos et

211 al. 2002 for justification of the use of maximal values in performance trials). We then digitised

212 each video using Didge 2.2.0. We began digitising 20 frames before initial movement and

213 stopped when the butterfly hit a wall or rapidly decelerated. We smoothed the x, y and z co-

214 ordinates thus obtained using a zero phase-shift Butterworth filter (Winter 2005), and calculated

215 velocity and acceleration from the smoothed displacements. Mass-specific power was obtained

216 by multiplying the observed velocity and acceleration profiles (as in Lailvaux et al. 2010; Lailvaux

217 et al. 2011; Toro et al. 2003). From these profiles, we also calculated time to peak instantaneous

218 velocity, time to peak acceleration, and time to peak power for each take-off as the time from

219 initial movement of the animal until the peak values were attained for each variable. We were

220 only interested in the initial take-off phase in this study, and hence we did not analyse any flight

221 data beyond the peak values for each take-off; furthermore, because these peak values are

222 associated with the initial power stroke of the wings and occur at the very beginning of the take-

223 off phase, the size of the enclosure is unlikely to affect our results, as rapid deceleration to avoid

224 walls typically occurs long after the take-off is complete. The flightway was also wide enough

225 that the butterflies' wings were not impeded during take-off, although narrow enough that wall

226 effects on the take-off stroke may exist; however, because the chamber standardized take-off

227   direction, these effects should apply equally to all individuals. Prior to each take-off, we also

228   measured body mass using a digital balance (MT5 Mettler). We sexed the butterflies following

229   performance measurement to test potential interactions between treatment and sex.

230   Consistent with general maximum performance protocols, only butterflies that yielded

231   consistently "good" (i.e. not obviously sub-maximal) take-offs were included in the final

232   analyses (see Losos et al. 2002 for an extensive discussion of this point). Hence, two individuals

233   from the control group and three from the treatment group which consistently exhibited clearly

234   sub-maximal take-offs were excluded from the final analyses. A further two individuals from the

235   treatment group died immediately post-eclosion and could not be measured for take-off

236   performance. Overall, we were able to obtain maximal take-off measurements from 16 males

237   and 10 females from the water stress treatment, and 16 males and 10 females from the

238   unstressed treatment.

239

240   *Morphological measurements*

241   Both fore- and hindwings were carefully removed from the thorax and placed in between two

242   glass slides. Digital images were then taken of the ventral and dorsal wing surface with an

243   Olympus Camedia C-3030 camera under carefully controlled light conditions. The area of each

244   wing (in mm^2) was measured using ImageJ (freely available on http://rsb.info.nih.gov/ij/), as in

245   (Breuker et al. 2010; Breuker et al. 2007b). Measurements were done twice to assess

246   measurement error, and regression analyses between repeated measures yielded a

247   measurement accuracy of 98.5%. The average of the first and second measurement was used in

248   the analyses.

249   The thorax was dried to a constant weight at 70°C in a drying oven and weighed to the

250   nearest 0.001g using a Mettler digital microbalance. We calculated two important measures of

251   insect flight morphology: (1) Wing aspect ratio (4 x [wing length ^{2}] / total wing area) (Betts and

252   Wootton 1988), and (2) wing loading (total body weight / total wing area) (Betts and Wootton

253   1988; Breuker et al. 2007a).

254

255   *Statistical analyses*

256   We used Lillifores tests to verify normality in all measured variables prior to analysis. Mass was

257   normalized by $\log_{10}$ transformation. We used two-way MANOVA with sex and treatment as

258   factors, and take-off velocity, acceleration, power, time to peak velocity, time to peak

259   acceleration, and time to peak power as dependent variables to test for differences in take-off

260   performance between males and females and across diet treatments. We also used two-way

261   MANCOVA with mass as a covariate to test for such differences independent of body size. We

262   repeated these analyses with emergence time (i.e. the time in days between eclosion and

263   performance measurement) as a factor to test for an effect of adult age on take-off

264   performance. Emergence time was normalized prior to analysis by square root transformation.

265   We used MANOVA to analyse the effects of sex and treatment on flight morphology and

266   associated factors affecting flight performance. To maximise statistical power, we carried out

267   separate MANOVAS for each sex with thorax weight, aspect ratio, and $\log_{10}$ wing loading as

268   dependent variables, and treatment as a factor. We also carried out a separate fully factorial

269   MANOVA to examine effects of sex and the sex*treatment interaction on flight morphology.

270   Finally, we used a generalized linear model with Poisson errors and sex and treatment as factors

271   to test for differences in the length of larval development (i.e. the time in days from hatching to

272   pupation) between males and females and between treatments. Generalized linear model

273   simplification was based on deletion test using log-likelihood ratios. All analyses were conducted

274   using R v 3.1.0 (http://cran.r-project.org/).

275

276   **Results**

277   *Take-off Performance*

278   The overall MANOVA showed no effects of treatment (Pillai's trace = 0.135, $F_{6,43}$ = 1.121, P =

279   0.366), sex (Pillai's trace = 0.125, $F_{6,43}$ = 1.022, P = 0.424) or of a treatment*sex interaction

280   (Pillai's trace = 0.78, $F_{6,43}$ = 0.608, P = 0.722) on overall take-off performance (comprising both

281   the kinetic and kinematic performance variables). Inspection of univariate ANOVAs reveals

282   significant effects of sex on take-off acceleration ($F_{1,48}$ = 4.715, P < 0.035) and take-off power

283   output ($F_{1,48}$ = 4.604, P < 0.037), with males exhibiting higher values than females in both cases

284   (Fig. 1a). Following size correction, the overall MANCOVA shows similar results to the

285   uncorrected MANOVA for treatment (Pillai's trait = 0.131, $F_{6,42}$ = 1.052, P = 0.406), sex (Pillai's

286   trace = 0.160, $F_{6,42}$ = 1.335, P < 0.263) and treatment*sex interaction (Pillai's trace = 0.622, $F_{6,42}$ =

287   0.622, P = 0.711). The size-corrected univariate ANCOVAs for peak take-off acceleration ($F_{1,47}$ =

288   4.869, P < 0.032) and power output ($F_{1,47}$ = 4.727, P < 0.035) are also significant, with values for

289   males being larger than those for females. Emergence time has no significant effects on flight

290   performance for either absolute (Pillai's trace = 0.92, $F_{6,42}$ = 0.708, P = 0.645) or size-corrected

291   data (Pillai's trace =0.92, $F_{6,41}$ = 0.692, P = 0.657).

292

293   *Morphology*

294   The within-sex MANOVAs show a significant treatment effect on flight morphology (i.e. wing

295   loading and wing aspect ratio) in males (Pillai's trace = 0.290, $F_{3,25}$ = 3.409, P < 0.033), but not

296   females (Pillai's trace = 0.025, $F_{3,10}$ = 0.967). Specifically, the aspect ratio differs significantly

297   between treatments in males (Fig. 1b), with stressed males having significantly lower aspect

298   ratios (and hence narrower wings) than control males ($F_{1,29}$ = 5.814, P < 0.023). Males and

299   females also differ significantly in overall flight morphology (Pillai's trace = 0.329, $F_{3,37}$ = 6.057, P

300   < 0.002), with males exhibiting consistently higher wing aspect ratios than females ($F_{1,43}$ =

301   17.610, P < 0.001). However, the sex*treatment interaction was in all cases non-significant

302   (Pillai's trace = 0.048, $F_{3,37}$ = 0.619, P = 0.607).

303

304   *Development*

305   The best fitting model for larval development time retained both sex and treatment effects

306   (Table 1; AIC =324.91; no. parameters =2) with control individuals pupating significantly sooner

307   than drought-stressed individuals in both males and females, and males exhibiting shorter

308   development times than females (Figure 2). However, the interaction between sex and

309   treatment (described by the next best-fitting model, AIC=326.91, no. parameters=3) was not

310   retained in the final minimum adequate model.

311

312   **Discussion**

313   The juvenile environment can have important effects on adult whole-organism performance.

314   We predicted that restricting water availability via the host plants in *P. aegeria* caterpillars

315   would prolong larval development, alter flight morphology, and compromise flight ability in

316   adult butterflies relative to control individuals. We found that treatment individuals exhibited

317   significantly longer development times compared to control individuals, supporting our first

318   prediction (Fig 1) (Gibbs et al. 2012). However, we found only partial support for our prediction

319   of a treatment effect on flight morphology, with only male aspect ratio being significantly

320   reduced in treatment relative to control individuals (in contrast to Gibbs et al. 2012). Despite

321   considerably higher mortality in the treatment compared with the control group, we found no

322   evidence that take-off performance in the butterfly *Parage aegeria* is compromised under larval

323   conditions of water restriction in either sex. Consequently, we are unable to reject the null

324   hypotheses of no effect of larval water restriction via the host plant on either take-off

325   performance (Fig. 1a) or kinematics (Fig. 1c).

326   We focussed on the larval stage in this study because caterpillars are less mobile and

327   thus limited in their ability to choose host food plants relative to the imago, whose mobility

328   arguably renders them less susceptible to the effects of drought. We therefore consider it

329   important to first understand the effects of water deprivation during the larval stadium on flight

330   performance in isolation of the effects on the adult stadium. Although we manipulated water

331   stress in the larval diet, we also fed adult butterflies nectar *ad libitum* following eclosion.

332   Feeding load has previously been shown to have a negative effect on take-off performance in *P.*

333   *aegeria* (e.g. Berwaerts and Van Dyck 2004), and it may be that performance differences

334   between treatments were therefore masked by post-eclosion feedings. However, while we did

335   not measure feeding load directly, we note that emergence time had no effect on any take-off

336   performance trait, and we found no significant interaction between emergence time and

337   treatment. Take-off performance of individuals that may have had prolonged access to nectar

338   post-emergence is therefore comparable to those that had shorter nectar access. Future studies

339   might nonetheless consider the effects of post-eclosion and adult feeding and hydration on

340   performance explicitly, perhaps in tandem with a similar larval water deprivation treatment.

341   Although we found no evidence of treatment effects on take-off performance and

342   kinematics, we did found large differences between treatments in larval development and

343   survivorship. Survivorship to the final adult stage was severely compromised in the water

344   restricted treatment: only 43.1% of the original sample survived to emerge as adults, as opposed

345   to 87.5% adult emergence in the normal quality treatment, resulting in smaller sample sizes for

346   the treatment group than expected, despite allocation of more individuals to the drought-

347   stressed treatment in anticipation of higher mortality for this group. Such mortality has also

348   been observed in the wild, where dry spells significantly increase mortality in *P. aegeria* (Oliver

349   et al. 2015). Of the animals that did emerge as adults, larval development times were

350   significantly prolonged in the water restricted treatment relative to the normal treatment

351   (Figure 2). In this respect, water restriction appears to have similar results to overall dietary

352   restriction, with previous studies on insects showing that individuals reared on poor quality diets

353   increase development time to allow for a longer larval feeding period, thereby compensating for

11

354 low diet quality by ingesting larger quantities of food (e.g. Carvalho et al. 2005; Raubenheimer

355 and Simpson 2003). Although one possible explanation for our results here is that the water-

356 stressed individuals prolong development times for similar reasons involving dietary

357 compensation, a further possibility is that the adult phenotype is insulated from environmental

358 effects on the larval stadium (Potter et al. 2011). Our current dataset does not allow us to

359 distinguish between these two explanations, and indeed the lack of a treatment effect on thorax

360 weight (Figure 1b) might be considered consistent with either notion.

361   Although correlational studies of the link between performance and dietary quality in

362 butterflies have, to our knowledge, never been attempted, previous studies using a correlational

363 approach have suggested that aspect ratio is positively linked with flight capacity in butterflies.

364 For example, Berwaerts et al. (2002) showed that aspect ratio accounted for a significant

365 amount of variation in take-off acceleration in *P. aegaeria* males. Here we show that although

366 water deprivation significantly lowered aspect ratio in males (but not females), this effect did

367 not translate into a performance difference (Fig 1) in the initial take-off stage considered here,

368 although it is possible that such performance effects might be manifest during other locomotor

369 contexts such as manoeuvrability. In addition to the possible role of compensation in

370 ameliorating treatment effects, a further possibility is that the difference in aspect ratio,

371 although statistically significant, was not large enough to translate into a biomechanical effect

372 on flight performance. Similar mismatches between morphology and performance have been

373 noted previously (e.g. Collar and Wainwright 2006; Lailvaux et al. 2009; Lauder 1996), and our

374 results here suggest that flight performance in *P. aegeria* may present further scope for study of

375 this phenomenon.

376   Despite our general lack of experimental support for treatment effects on take-off

377 performance, we did find significant effects of sex on peak take-off acceleration and mass-

378 specific power output, with males being better performers than females both before and after

379 size correction. The effect of sex on acceleration is consistent with previous studies examining

380 take-off performance in this species (e.g. Berwaerts et al. 2008; Berwaerts and Van Dyck 2004;

381 Berwaerts et al. 2002). Our data also show that males exhibit greater power output relative to

382 females, a result that meshes with observed behaviours of male and female *P. aegeria* in the

383 field. For example, whereas males are frequently observed to exhibit explosive take-offs from

384 rest during territory defense (Wickman and Wiklund 1983), fast take-offs are less important to

385 females, who rely more on sustained flight (Berwaerts et al. 2008). Thus, in addition to

386 confirming previous reports of a sex difference in take-off acceleration, our results for power

387 output are consistent with observed differences in the way that males and females make use of

388 their respective flight capacities.

389 Few data exist on effects of water restriction on whole-organism performance in any

390 animal species, making it difficult to place our findings here within a comparative context.

391 Locomotor capacity declines under conditions of low water availability in frogs of the genera

392 *Rana* and *Bufo* (Gatten and Clark 1989; Moore and Gatten 1989). However, while endurance

393 was affected by hydration in these animals, sprint speed was not, suggesting that it is the

394 aerobic pathways supporting stamina that are more susceptible to hydration stress than

395 anaerobically-supported burst speed. Although we did not measure flight endurance in the

396 current study, our results for burst take-off performance are consistent with those from the frog

397 studies in that we found no effect of drought stress on anaerobic take-off performance. Further

398 experimental studies would be valuable in evaluating the effect of larval drought stress, if any,

399 on flight endurance.

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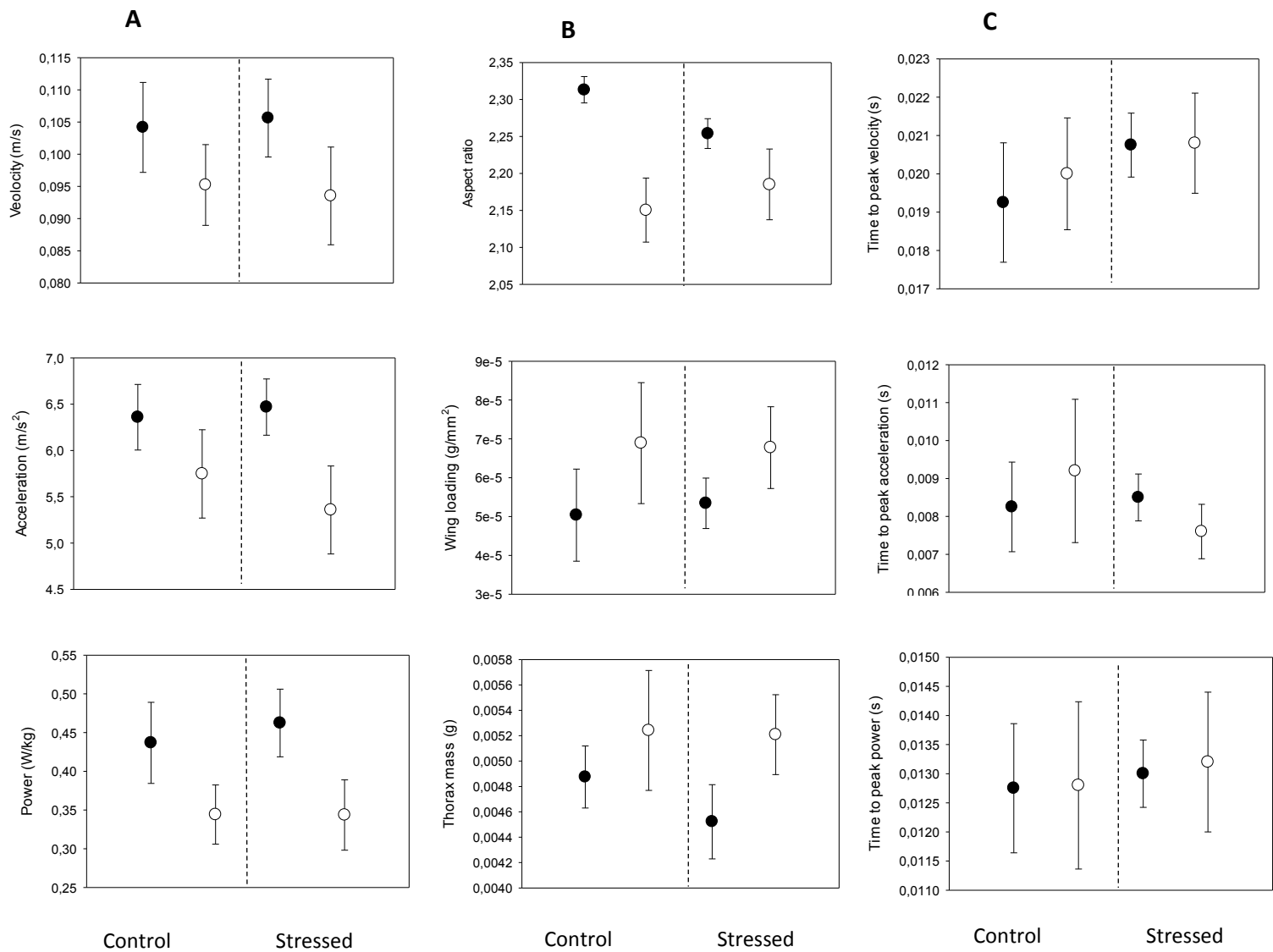545   Jersey.
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571 Table 1: Parameter estimates for the best-fitting generalized linear model describing the effects
572 of sex and drought-stress treatment on development time. The baseline category for "Sex" is
573 female, and for "Drought" it is control. Thus, the reported values give estimated change and
574 associated standard error in development time between the category named in the table and
575 the baseline category.

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Model term	Estimate	SE	P-value
Sex(male)	-0.16	0.052	0.002
Drought (treat)	0.156	0.051	0.002

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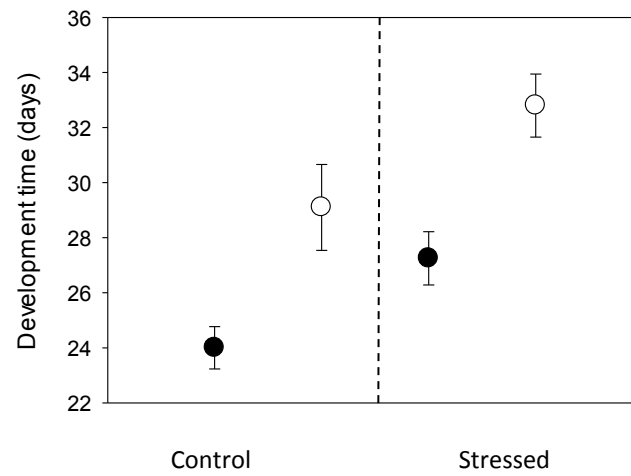
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631   <u>Figure 1</u>: (a) Performance variables for males (closed circles) and females (open circles) for

632   control and water-stressed diet treatments. (b) Flight morphology variables for males (closed

633   circles) and females (open circles) for control and water-stressed diet treatments. (c) Kinematic

634   variables for males (closed circles) and females (open circles) for control and water-stressed diet

635   treatments. All values are means ± se.

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637   <u>Figure 2</u>: Larval development times for males (closed circles) and females (open circles) for

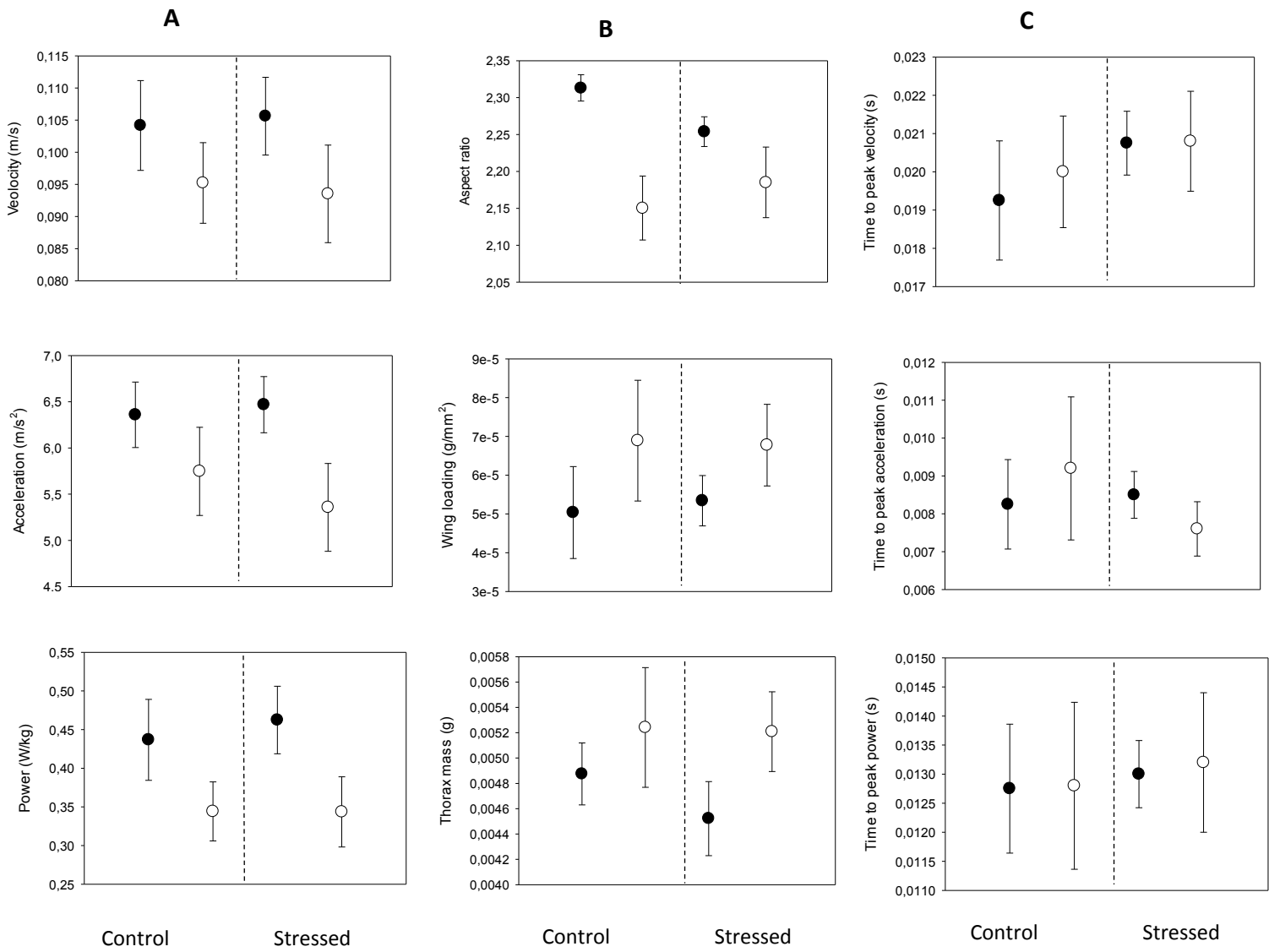638   control and water-stressed diet treatments. All values are means ± se.

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fig 1

fig 2