

21 **Abstract**

22 Parasites can represent formidable selection pressures for hosts, but the cost of infection
23 is sometimes difficult to demonstrate in natural populations. While parasite exploitation
24 strategies may, in some instances, actually inflict low costs on their hosts, the response of
25 hosts to infection is also likely to determine whether or not costs can be detected. Indeed,
26 costs of infection may be obscured if infected individuals in the wild are those that are the
27 most tolerant, rather than the most susceptible, to infection. Here we test this hypothesis
28 in two natural populations of *Anolis sagrei*, one of the most common anole lizard of the
29 Bahamas. *Plasmodium* parasites were detected in >7% of individuals and belonged to
30 two distinct clades: *P. mexicanum* and *P. floriensis*. Infected individuals displayed greater
31 body condition than non-infected ones and we found no association between infection
32 status, stamina and survival to the end of the breeding season. Furthermore, we found no
33 significant difference in the immuno-competence (measured as a response to PHA
34 challenge) of infected vs. non-infected individuals. Taken together, our results suggest
35 that the infected individuals that are caught in the wild are those most able to withstand
36 the cost of the infection and that susceptible, infected individuals have been removed
37 from the population (i.e., through disease-induced mortality). This study highlights the
38 need for caution when interpreting estimates of infection costs in natural populations, as
39 costs may appear low either when parasites exploitation strategies truly inflict low costs
40 on their hosts or when those costs are so high that susceptible hosts are removed from the
41 population. [264 words]

42

43 **Introduction**

44 Harboring parasites is energetically costly to hosts, not only because they exploit host
45 resources, but also because they cause damage to host tissues and activate costly immune
46 responses (Bonneaud et al. 2012; Sheldon and Verhulst 1996). Access to limited
47 resources means that any reallocation of energy to parasite proliferation, tissue repair or
48 immune activation will divert it away from other fitness-associated traits, such as
49 physical activity, thereby giving rise to the physiological constraints underlying life-
50 history trade-offs (e.g., between survival and reproduction) (Bonneaud et al. 2003; van
51 der Most et al. 2011). While evidence for energetic costs of infection is accumulating
52 (Bonneaud et al. 2016; Eraud et al. 2005), the impact of infection on other fitness-
53 associated traits remains difficult to demonstrate in natural populations (Knowles et al.
54 2009). One key reason is that it is unclear whether infection in wild-caught individuals
55 reflects increased susceptibility or heightened tolerance to parasites. In both of these
56 cases, wild-caught individuals that are not infected will comprise of resistant, as well as
57 unexposed hosts. However, whether infection reflects susceptibility or tolerance will have
58 consequences for the pool of infected individuals, since susceptible individuals that are
59 infected will be removed from the population (i.e., through disease-induced mortality) in
60 the latter, but not in the former case. Because energy should become limiting primarily in
61 infections of resistant and susceptible hosts (due to protective immune activity and
62 pathogenesis, respectively; (Bonneaud et al. 2012), and less so of tolerant individuals
63 (Råberg et al. 2007), trade-offs resulting from infection may therefore not always be
64 apparent in the wild.

65

66 *Plasmodium* parasites, which are transmitted to vertebrate hosts by haematophagous
67 dipteran vectors during blood meals, have the potential to cause high levels of morbidity
68 and mortality in natural populations (Van Riper et al. 1986). Pathogenesis is caused
69 primarily by the high metabolic demands of *Plasmodium* proliferation, hemoglobin
70 catabolism for the biosynthesis of parasite amino acids, and massive lysis of infected
71 erythrocytes, all of which give rise to shortages of oxygen and glucose necessary for
72 cellular metabolism in host tissues (Mackintosh et al. 2004; Olszewski et al. 2009; Roth
73 1990). Consequently, *Plasmodium* infections have been shown to be associated with
74 substantial metabolic complications in a range of organisms, in part due to a mismatch
75 between oxygen supplies and requirements of host tissues (Li et al. 2008; Olszewski and
76 Llinas 2011). For instance, in humans, severe malaria is marked by low blood glucose
77 levels (hypoglycaemia) and build-up of lactate in the body (lactic acidosis) due to
78 increased anaerobic glycolysis (Planche et al. 2005). Western Fence Lizards (*Sceloporus*
79 *occidentalis*) infected with *P. mexicanum*, displayed a 25% reduction in hemoglobin
80 concentration and 30% increase in oxygen consumption following physical exertion
81 relative to uninfected individuals, evidencing similar increased reliance on anaerobic
82 metabolism and greater costs of recovery (Scholnick et al. 2010). *Plasmodium* infection
83 also increased the cost of recovery following physical activity in *S. occidentalis*, with
84 infected lizards displaying heightened blood glucose and lactate levels relative to non-
85 infected ones (Scholnick et al. 2012). Such metabolic complications are expected to
86 impair the physical activity of *Plasmodium*-infected hosts and, accordingly, classical
87 symptoms of severe malaria in humans include muscle aches, contractures, fatigue and
88 weakness (Miller et al. 1989).

89 *Plasmodium* infections have been associated with cardiac dysfunction and shown to
90 have detrimental effects on skeletal muscles in both humans (Marrelli and Brotto 2016;
91 Miller et al. 1989; Nguah et al. 2012; Yeo et al. 2013) and animals (Brotto et al. 2005;
92 Carmona et al. 1996; Scholnick et al. 2012; Vuong et al. 1999). While such pathogenic
93 effects are thought to be primarily driven by tissue hypoxia (Yeo et al. 2013),
94 investigation of the contractile function and biochemical properties of the skeletal
95 muscles of mice infected with *P. berghei* revealed direct effects on the contractile
96 machinery itself (Brotto et al. 2005). Indeed, the leg muscles of infected mice displayed a
97 significant loss of essential contractile proteins that was likely responsible for a 50%
98 decrease in contractile force, heightened fatigue and lower recovery from fatigue.
99 Atlantic canary (*Serinus canaria*) infected with *P. cathemerium* exhibited similar skeletal
100 muscle compromise, with marked alterations in their contractile and sarcotubular systems
101 (Carmona et al. 1996). Such muscle cell damage is thought to result from the
102 inflammatory and oxidative stress triggered during malaria (Callahan et al. 2001; Clark
103 and Cowden 2003; Pabon et al. 2003). Despite measurable effects on muscle function in
104 humans and animals in the laboratory, there remains considerable variation in estimates
105 of the impact of *Plasmodium* on physical activity in natural populations (Knowles et al.
106 2010; Merino et al. 2000; Schall and Pearson 2000).

107

108 Impacts of *Plasmodium* infection on activity in the wild have been investigated as
109 direct measures of locomotor capacity, as well as indirectly by evaluating effects on
110 higher-level phenotypes mediated by physical performance (e.g., reproductive effort). For
111 instance, natural *Plasmodium* infections were found associated with reduced stamina in

112 both western fence and rainbow (*Agama agama*) lizards (Schall 1990). However, there
113 was no association between *Plasmodium* infection status and sprint speed in western
114 fence lizards (Schall 1990), or locomotor activity in Spiny lizards (*Sceloporus jarrovi*)
115 (Halliday et al. 2014). *Plasmodium* infection nevertheless impacted social interactions in
116 western fence lizards, with infected males being more often socially submissive, less
117 socially active and less able to maintain territories and defend access to females (Schall
118 and Dearing 1987; Schall and Sarni 1987). *Plasmodium* infections have also been shown
119 to have mix effects on reproductive success in the wild. Female blue tits (*Cyanistes*
120 *caeruleus*) that were infected and treated with an anti-malarial drug displayed increased
121 hatching success, provisioning rates and fledging success relative to infected females that
122 were untreated (Knowles et al. 2010). In contrast, the same population of blue tits also
123 exhibited a positive association between reproductive effort (measured as clutch size) and
124 parasitaemia (Knowles et al. 2011), and no association was reported between infection
125 status and reproductive performance in red-billed gulls (*Larus scopulinus*) (Cloutier et al.
126 2011). The association between *Plasmodium* infection status and physical activity is
127 likely to be, in large part, dependent on the actual cost of the parasite's exploitation
128 strategy. But greater virulence may not necessarily be associated with greater measurable
129 costs if virulence is so high that infected individuals that are susceptible are removed
130 from the population, thus biasing the pool of infected individuals towards those that are
131 able to withstand the cost of infection.

132

133 We investigated whether infection with *Plasmodium* signals increased susceptibility
134 or heightened tolerance in natural populations of *Anolis sagrei* lizards. To do so, we

135 screened wild-caught lizards for *Plasmodium* parasites and examined links between
136 infection status, body condition, locomotor performance (stamina) and survival to the end
137 of the breeding season. We predicted that, if infection signals increased susceptibility to
138 *Plasmodium* (hereafter: the susceptibility hypothesis), infected lizards should exhibit
139 reduced body condition, locomotor performance and survival relative to non-infected
140 ones. Conversely, a lack of association or positive associations between infection status
141 and those traits would support the hypothesis that, under natural conditions, wild-caught
142 infected individuals are those that are able to tolerate the costs of infection (hereafter: the
143 tolerance hypothesis). In addition, we predicted that the immuno-competence of infected
144 individuals would be lower than that of non-infected individuals if infection reflects
145 greater susceptibility (Navarro et al. 2003). To test this additional prediction, we
146 challenged all individuals with phytohemagglutinin (PHA), which stimulates the
147 infiltration and/or proliferation of various immune cells, including T lymphocytes
148 (Licastro et al. 1993; Martin et al. 2006), and is hence commonly used in eco-
149 immunology to estimate cell-mediated immunity (for e.g., Bowers et al. 2014; Gonzalez
150 et al. 1999; Martin et al. 2003; Mugabo et al. 2015; Svensson et al. 2001).

151

152 **Methods**

153 *Study system and field methods*

154 The brown anole, *Anolis sagrei*, is a small (40-70 mm snout-vent-length; SVL) semi-
155 arboreal lizard, and is one of the most common anoles in the Bahamas (Losos 2009). We
156 studied wild populations of *A. sagrei* at 2 sites of the Bahamas: Regatta Point on the large
157 island of Great Exuma (23°30'25.1"N 75°45'58.3"W) and Stocking Island (23°32'N

158 75°46'W), a ~1 km² island <2 km offshore. We captured a total of 343 individuals, 130
159 from Regatta Point (66 females and 64 males) and 207 from Stocking Island (52 females
160 and 155 males) during spring (May-June) 2005. Upon capture, we measured body mass
161 (nearest g) and assigned each individual with a unique four-color combination of
162 elastomer markings, which were injected into the underside of the hind- and forelimbs.
163 Blood was drawn from the postorbital sinus and stored in PBS/EDTA buffer at -20°C,
164 and we measured immune-competence using a PHA assay (see below). All lizards were
165 then released back to their site of capture and a subset of them (from Regatta Point only)
166 was recaptured 2 weeks later to measure running endurance.

167

168 Most lizards (ca. 90%; Cox and Calsbeek 2010) in our study population mature and
169 die in a single year. We therefore estimated fitness as survival from initial capture (sub-
170 adulthood) in late May-early June to our population censuses conducted during late
171 September-early October. This four-month period accounts for survival to maturity and to
172 the end of the first breeding season. Lizards that we did not recapture were considered to
173 have died; this is a reasonable assumption since emigration from islands is extremely
174 rare, except perhaps during hurricanes (Calsbeek and Smith 2003), of which none
175 occurred during this study. Moreover, although the majority of surviving lizards were
176 recaptured within the first two days of our census, we searched an additional three weeks
177 to ensure the recapture of every marked lizard. Censuses continued until two consecutive
178 days with no new recaptured individuals. In total, we recaptured 108 individuals,
179 including 47 on Regatta Point (19 females and 26 males) and 60 on Stocking Island (12
180 females and 48 males).

181

182 *Screening for Plasmodium infection*

183 DNA was extracted for all samples from whole blood following a DNeasy kit
184 protocol (Qiagen, Valencia, CA, USA). We used primers and methods described in
185 (Perkins and Schall 2002) to detect *Haemoproteus* and *Plasmodium* parasites, which are
186 eukaryotes belonging to the phylum apicomplexa. The PCR products were run on 2%
187 agarose gels and stained with ethidium bromide for UV detection. Negative results were
188 confirmed by repeated PCR. PCR products were purified using a MinElute Qiagen[®] kit
189 following manufacturer's instructions. We identified lineages by sequencing the
190 fragments (BigDye (R) version 1.1 sequencing kit, Applied Biosystems) on an ABI
191 PRISM 3100 (TM) sequencing robot (Applied Biosystems). Distinct sequences found
192 several times in independent PCRs, either within a same individual or in several different
193 individuals, were considered to be "verified" (V). Unique sequences, which only differed
194 from verified sequences by one nucleotide, were also found. However, a single
195 nucleotide divergence may be attributed to a *Taq* polymerase incorporation error during
196 amplification or to another type of PCR error (jumping PCR, heteroduplex artifact) and
197 these haplotypes are therefore considered "non-verified" (NV). Sequences are deposited
198 in GenBankTM with the following accession numbers DQ846851-DQ846861 and
199 DQ986492-DQ986495.

200

201 *Immune response*

202 *In vivo* cell-mediated immune response was assessed using a PHA assay (Goto et al.
203 1978). Because males are larger than females, we challenged males with 0.20 mg PHA in

204 0.02 ml phosphate buffered saline (PBS) and females with 0.10 mg PHA in 0.01 ml PBS,
205 injected in the left hind-foot pad. We injected the same volume of PBS in the right hind-
206 foot pad as a control. We recorded the thickness of each footpad with dial-calipers (\pm
207 0.01 mm) at the site of PHA injection, before and again 24 hours following injection. We
208 assessed the intensity of the response to PHA as the difference in swelling between the
209 PHA-injected and the control footpad. Swelling was measured in a total of 194
210 individuals, including 77 from Regatta Point (39 females and 38 males) and 118 from
211 Stocking Island (9 females and 109 males). All individuals were released back at their
212 site of capture following immune measure.

213

214 *Stamina*

215 Individuals on Regatta Point were re-captured after 2 weeks to ensure full recovery
216 from immune measurements. Stamina was then measured by running lizards to
217 exhaustion on an electrical treadmill (0.4km/hr) (Perry et al. 2004). Because anoles do
218 not run well on level surfaces (Perry et al. 2004), we set the treadmill at a 20-degree
219 incline. We motivated lizards to run by manually tapping the hind limb. Lizards were
220 considered to have run to exhaustion after three failed attempts to induce running, and/or
221 the loss of the lizard's natural righting response. Stamina was measured as the time to
222 exhaustion (in seconds) in a total of 127 individuals from Regatta Point only (64 females
223 and 63 males).

224

225 *Phylogenetic and Statistical Analyses*

226 The phylogeny of the isolates was reconstructed using a Bayesian approach in

227 MrBayes v.3.2.6 (Huelsenbeck and Ronquist 2001) and includes reptilian malaria isolates
228 available on Genbank, as well as *P. falciparum*, which is used as an outgroup. The
229 phylogeny is based on 598 bp of the *cytB* gene. Genbank accession numbers are included
230 in the tree annotation (see Figure 1). The tree was reconstructed using a gamma-
231 distributed, site-specific, general time-reversible model, with parameters estimated from
232 the data during the analysis. We ran two runs of two chains for 20 000 000 MCMC
233 generations, sampling trees every 20 000 generations. The tree was then plotted using
234 Figtree v1.4.2 (<http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/figtree/>).

235

236 All statistical analyses were conducted in R 3.3.2 (R Core Team 2016). Out of the 25
237 individuals that tested positive for *Plasmodium* infection, only one was female. As a
238 result, all analyses were done on males only. First, we tested whether body condition was
239 affected by infection status using linear regressions with body condition as the response
240 variable and with infection status as the explanatory term. Body condition was calculated
241 as $(\text{body mass}/\text{SVL}^2)$ with body mass in mg and SVL in mm; by doing so, our analysis
242 controls for any differences in SVL that are generated by differences in age and/or
243 growth rate. To test for differences in stamina as a function of infection status, we then
244 used a linear regression with stamina as the response variable and with infection status
245 and body mass as the explanatory terms. We investigated whether individuals experience
246 different survival probability depending on their infection status using a logistic
247 regression with survival to the end of the breeding season as the response variable and
248 with infection status and body mass as the explanatory terms. Finally, we modelled
249 differences in immune response using a linear regression that included immune swelling

250 as the response variable and with infection status and body mass as the explanatory
251 variables. Figures 2-4 were made using the package “ggplot2” (Wickham 2009).

252

253 **Results**

254 Out of 337 individuals, 25 (7.4%) were infected with *Plasmodium* lineages, with
255 prevalence differing significantly between sites and reaching 12% on Regatta Point and
256 5% on Stocking Island ($\chi^2 = 4.3$, $df = 1$, $P = 0.04$). Of the 25 infected lizards, only one
257 was a female from Stocking Island. Out of the 24 males infected, 15 (63%) were from
258 Regatta Point and nine (38%) from Stocking Island. Sequencing *Plasmodium* infections
259 in all 25 infected individuals yielded 15 unique sequences (597bp), only 3 of which were
260 verified mitochondrial malaria lineages (Figure 1). All sequences belonged to two well-
261 supported monophyletic clusters of *Plasmodium* lineages, with V1 and NV1-9 belonging
262 to the clade containing *P. mexicanum* and V2, V3 and NV10-13 belonging to the clade
263 containing *P. floridense* group. No individual was found to be co-infected with *P.*
264 *mexicanum* and *P. floridense*.

265

266 We found no compelling support for the susceptibility hypothesis: in no case was
267 there a negative association between infection status and host traits, and any non-
268 significant associations were all in a positive direction (see Table 1). Males that were
269 infected were found to be in significantly better body condition than non-infected males
270 (linear regression; infection status: $t_{1,215} = 2.0$, $P = 0.04$; $R^2 = 0.02$; Figure 2). There was
271 no effect of infection status on male stamina (linear regression; infection status: $t_{1,60} =$
272 0.8 , $P = 0.46$; body mass: $t_{1,60} = 2.2$, $P < 0.04$; $R^2 = 0.09$; Figure 3a). Similarly, there was

273 no association between survival to the next breeding season and infection status (logistic
274 regression; infection status: $z_{1,202} = 1.1$, $P = 0.26$, relative odds ratio = 1.7 (CI = 0.68 -
275 4.0); body mass: $z_{1,202} = 1.2$, $P = 0.24$, relative odds ratio = 1.0 (CI = 0.99 - 1.0); Figure
276 3b). Finally, immune swelling in response to PHA tended to be higher in infected males,
277 but this effect was not significant (linear regression; infection status: $t_{1,143} = 1.73$, $P =$
278 0.09 ; body mass: $t_{1,143} = 5.3$, $P < 0.001$; site: $t_{1,143} = 0.6$, $P = 0.54$; $R^2 = 0.19$; Figure 4).

279

280 **Discussion**

281 *Plasmodium* infections were detected in >7% of wild-caught *A. sagrei*, with
282 prevalence ranging from 12% on the main island of Great Exuma (Regatta Point) to 5%
283 on the more remote Stocking Island. Lizards were infected either with *P. mexicanum* or
284 with *P. floridense*, and both *Plasmodium* clades were found at both sites. Despite
285 demonstrated costs of *Plasmodium* infection in other taxa in both laboratory and natural
286 settings, we found that infected male had higher body condition than non-infected ones.
287 Furthermore, infection with *Plasmodium* was not associated with reduced stamina,
288 survival, or immune swelling to PHA and any trend was in a positive direction in contrast
289 to the predictions of the susceptibility hypothesis (see Table 1). Although these trends
290 were not significant in the opposite direction to those expected under the susceptibility
291 hypothesis, power analyses revealed that considerably more individuals would be
292 required to obtain significance for each parameter tested (e.g., 463 for stamina and 322
293 for immune response). Our results are therefore consistent with the prediction that wild-
294 caught lizards infected with *Plasmodium* are tolerant, rather than susceptible, to the
295 parasite.

296

297 While studies on humans and laboratory animals demonstrate measurable costs of
298 *Plasmodium* infections with detrimental consequences on host traits (e.g., body condition,
299 physical activity), evidence of such effects in natural populations remains mixed
300 (Knowles et al. 2010; Merino et al. 2000; Schall and Pearson 2000). For several years
301 now, this has fueled debate as to whether or not *Plasmodium* infections are actually truly
302 costly in the wild (Asghar et al. 2011). Comparisons across host populations and
303 *Plasmodium* lineages reveal that costs of infection can, in fact, vary markedly. For
304 example, the widespread population declines and extinctions suffered by the Hawaiian
305 avifauna as a result of the introduction of *P. relictum* attests to the fact that infections
306 may be more costly in recently exposed hosts (Van Riper et al. 1986). Furthermore, the
307 fitness consequences of infection may also vary depending on the *Plasmodium* lineage
308 involved. Lesser Kestrels (*Falco naumanni*) displayed reduced fledging numbers only
309 when infected with one of two *Plasmodium* lineages detected in this species (Ortego et al.
310 2008). Interestingly, while on the whole correlative studies estimating the cost of
311 *Plasmodium* infection remain inconclusive, experimental manipulations of *Plasmodium*
312 infection through the administration of anti-malarial medication demonstrate that chronic
313 infections with *Plasmodium* can indeed have significant effects on host fitness (Knowles
314 et al. 2010; Marzal et al. 2005). As a result, the absence of measurable cost to
315 *Plasmodium* infection in natural populations does not necessarily imply that there is no
316 cost *per se*. Rather our ability to estimate this cost will depend on whether we are able to
317 sample all the individuals of the population that have been infected, or whether our
318 sample includes only the subset of individuals that can sustain the costs of infection.

319

320 Tolerance is the ability to limit the damages caused by infection for a given parasite
321 load (Råberg et al. 2009). In other words, while tolerant individuals are not able to
322 control their parasite burden, they are able to diminish the associated pathogenic effects.
323 Accordingly, an experimental infection of five strains of mice with *P. chabaudi* revealed
324 measurable differences in tolerance to infection, with the most tolerant mice strains
325 exhibiting reduced loss of both body mass and red blood cells relative to the least tolerant
326 ones (Råberg et al. 2007). Tolerance therefore has the potential to lessen, if not erase, the
327 cost of infection in wild populations. The lack of associations between stamina, survival
328 and *Plasmodium* infection status in our populations of *A. sagrei* evidence an absence of
329 measurable costs of infection. Furthermore, we found that, in fact, infected individuals
330 were in better body condition than non-infected ones. Taken together, these results
331 suggest that wild-caught infected *A. sagrei* encompass the individuals that are able to
332 bear the cost of infection by *Plasmodium* parasites, rather than those that are the most
333 susceptible to infection. While we cannot fully exclude the possibility that infected *A.*
334 *sagrei* are those that are quantitatively resistant to infection (i.e., able to limit parasite
335 growth; Gandon and Michalakis 2000; Sepil et al. 2013) rather than tolerant, the absence
336 of measurable costs of infection expected as a result of immune activity suggests that this
337 is unlikely to be the case.

338

339 That *Plasmodium*-infected lizards are the most tolerant rather than the most
340 susceptible is further supported by the fact that infected individuals did not display
341 reduced immuno-competence relative to non-infected ones. The link between infection

342 status and measures of immune capability (i.e., immuno-competence) is still debated and
343 questions remain as to whether measures of immunity mirror an individual's health (i.e.,
344 whether or not it is currently infected), or whether these measures are indicative of the
345 individuals' ability to control and clear parasites (reviewed in Biard et al. 2015). The
346 phytohaemagglutinin (PHA)-induced swelling test stimulates the infiltration and/or
347 proliferation of various immune cells, including T lymphocytes (Licastro et al. 1993;
348 Martin et al. 2006), and is hence commonly used in eco-immunology to estimate cell-
349 mediated immunity (for e.g., Bowers et al. 2014; Mugabo et al. 2015). Links between the
350 response to PHA and infection status with various parasites is mixed, with some studies
351 showing positive associations and others reporting negative ones (Biard et al. 2015).
352 However, the one study that has tested links with haemosporidian parasites (genus
353 *Haemoproteus*) found that infected house sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) had lower PHA
354 responses and that individuals in better body condition had stronger immune responses to
355 PHA than individuals in lower condition (Navarro et al. 2003). That our study shows a
356 trend for infected *A. sagrei* to display increased immune responses to PHA relative to
357 non-infected ones is therefore more consistent with the hypothesis that infected lizards
358 are tolerant rather than susceptible to infection. Experimental work is, however, now
359 required to fully understand the link between infection status with hemosporidians
360 (including *Plasmodium*) and response to PHA.

361

362 Our study highlights the need to take into account the complexity of host-parasite
363 co-evolutionary interactions when evaluating the costs of infection. Virulence, which is
364 strictly defined as parasite-induced host mortality but which can be more broadly thought

365 of as the fitness cost of infection to the host, is a product of both parasite and host
366 behavior and hence an outcome of their interaction (Alizon et al. 2009; Bull and Luring
367 2014; Poulin and Combes 1999). As a result, we will only gain a complete understanding
368 of disease virulence and the intensity of parasite-driven selection, if we measure infection
369 costs in an unbiased sample of the host population. However, we are at risk of under-
370 estimating those costs when virulence is such that all susceptible hosts are removed from
371 the population (i.e., through mortality) and that the only infected individuals remaining
372 are the tolerant ones.

373

374 **Acknowledgments**

375 This project benefited from the excellent assistance of Yuri Springer and Delphin Ruché
376 in the field. Special thanks go to Nancy Bottomley, Regatta Point in Georgetown, Exuma
377 for logistical support and permission to work on her land. We thank the department of
378 agriculture and the people of the Bahamas for permission to conduct this research.
379 Research was performed under the UCLA's Institutional Animal Care and Use
380 Committee (protocol 2004-47-04), and was supported by a National Geographic Society
381 grant to RC (#8002-06) and a Natural Environment Research Council research grant to
382 CB (NE/M00256X). The symposium was supported by NSF grant # IOS-1637160 and
383 Company of Biologists grant EA1233 (both to Simon Lailvaux and Jerry Husak), and by
384 SICB divisions DAB, DCB, DEC, DEDE, DEE, DNB, and DVM.

385

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558

559 **Table 1.** Model estimates and standard errors for each of four models testing the
560 association between infection status with *Plasmodium* parasites and host traits.

561 **Figure legends**

562

563 **Figure 1.** Phylogenetic tree 15 *Plasmodium* isolates found in *Anolis sagrei* based on Cyt
564 *b* sequences. The phylogeny of the *cytB* gene was reconstructed using a Bayesian
565 approach. Sequences from known lizard malaria parasites were included for comparison,
566 and human *Plasmodium falciparum* was used as an out-group. V1 belongs to the
567 monophyletic group of *P. mexicanum*, while V2 and V3 verified lineages belonged to the
568 monophyletic group of *P. floridense*. GenBank accession numbers of all sequences are
569 indicated. Numbers on interior branches indicate Bayesian support.

570

571 **Figure 2.** Association between *Plasmodium* infection status and body condition in male
572 *Anolis sagrei*. The darker symbols show the predicted means and se, and the lighter
573 symbols show the raw values.

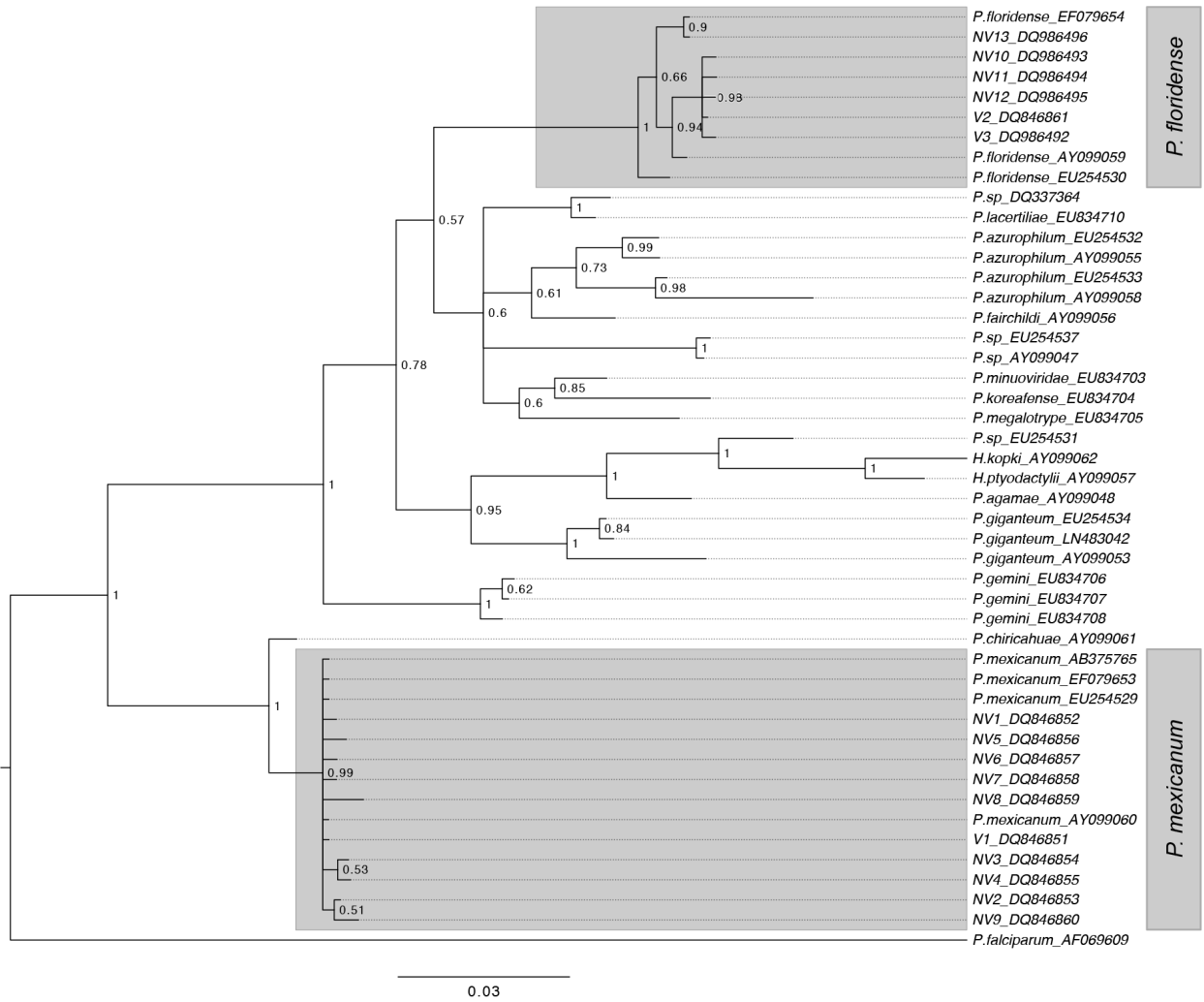
574

575 **Figure 3.** Association between *Plasmodium* infection status and (a) stamina (in s) and (b)
576 survival to the next breeding season in male *Anolis sagrei*. The darker symbols show the
577 predicted means and se, and the lighter symbols show the raw values. In (b), note the
578 dispersion of observations around 0 (no survival) and 1 (survived) to improve the
579 visualization of results.

580

581 **Figure 4.** Association between *Plasmodium* infection status and immune swelling (in
582 mm) to PHA in male *Anolis sagrei*. The darker symbols show the predicted means and
583 se, and the lighter symbols show the raw values.

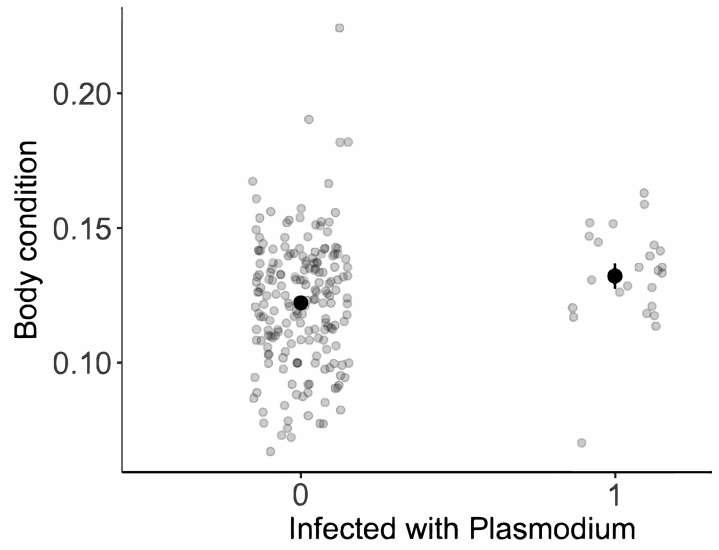
584 Figure 1



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586

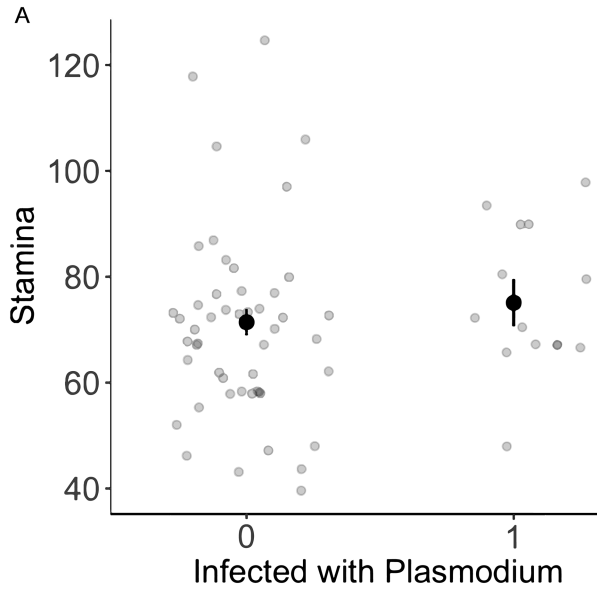
587 **Figure 2**



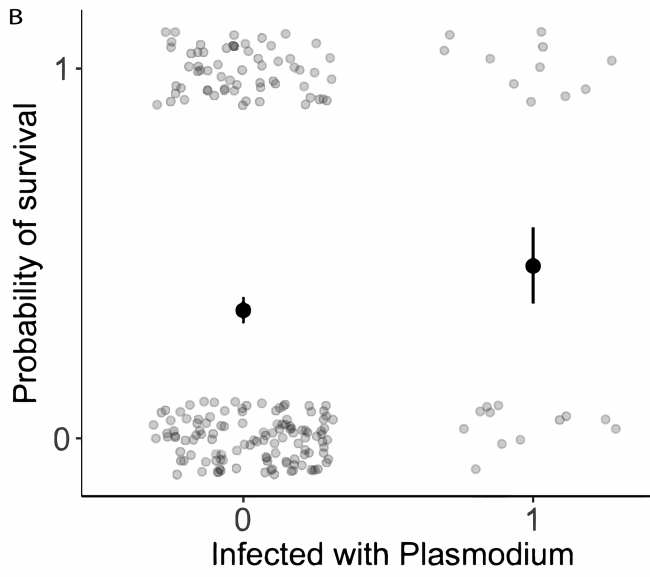
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589

590 **Figure 3**



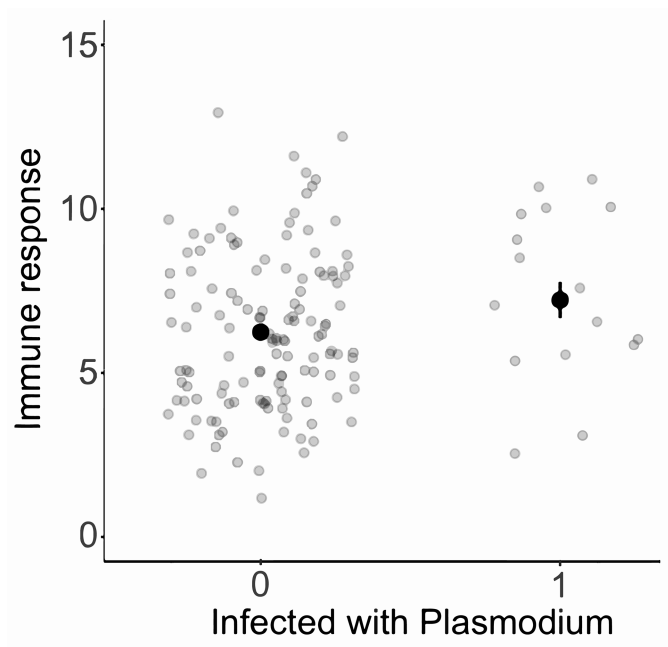
591 **A**



592 **B**

593

594 **Figure 4**



595