

6-1-2016

# Reproductive arrest and stress resistance in winter-acclimated *Drosophila suzukii*.

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## Citation of this paper:

Toxopeus, Jantina; Jakobs, Ruth; Ferguson, Laura V; Gariepy, Tara D; and Sinclair, Brent J, "Reproductive arrest and stress resistance in winter-acclimated *Drosophila suzukii*." (2016). *Biology Publications*. 88.

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**Reproductive arrest and stress resistance in winter-acclimated *Drosophila suzukii***

Running title: **Winter-acclimated *D. suzukii***

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21 **Abstract**

22 Overwintering insects must survive the multiple-stress environment of winter, which includes  
23 low temperatures, reduced food and water availability, and cold-active pathogens. Many insects  
24 overwinter in diapause, a developmental arrest associated with high stress tolerance. *Drosophila*  
25 *suzukii* (Diptera: Drosophilidae), spotted wing drosophila, is an invasive agricultural pest  
26 worldwide. Its ability to overwinter and therefore establish in temperate regions could have  
27 severe implications for fruit crop industries. We demonstrate here that laboratory populations of  
28 Canadian *D. suzukii* larvae reared under short-day, low temperature, conditions develop into dark  
29 ‘winter morph’ adults similar to those reported globally from field captures, and observed by us  
30 in southern Ontario, Canada. These winter-acclimated adults have delayed reproductive maturity,  
31 enhanced cold tolerance, and can remain active at lower temperatures, although they do not have  
32 the increased desiccation tolerance or survival of fungal pathogen challenges that might be  
33 expected from a more heavily melanised cuticle. Winter-acclimated female *D. suzukii* have  
34 underdeveloped ovaries and altered transcript levels of several genes associated with  
35 reproduction and stress. While superficially indicative of reproductive diapause, the delayed  
36 reproductive maturity of winter-acclimated *D. suzukii* appears to be temperature-dependent, not  
37 regulated by photoperiod, and is thus unlikely to be ‘true’ diapause. The traits of this ‘winter  
38 morph’, however, likely facilitate overwintering in southern Canada, and have probably  
39 contributed to the global success of this fly as an invasive species.

41 **Key words**

42 Spotted wing drosophila, winter morph, reproductive diapause, stress tolerance, overwintering

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4 **44 1. Introduction**

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6 45 Winter imposes cold, desiccation, immune challenge and food limitation on ectotherms, and is a  
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9 46 key determinant of the biology and life history of temperate, montane, and polar insects  
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11 47 (Williams et al., 2015). As temperature decreases, insects enter a reversible state of  
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14 48 neuromuscular paralysis, known as chill coma, at the critical thermal minimum ( $CT_{min}$ )  
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16 49 (MacMillan and Sinclair, 2011), before freezing at the supercooling point (SCP) (Lee, 2010).  
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18  
19 50 Many insects are chill-susceptible, dying of cold injuries unrelated to freezing, with a lethal  
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21 51 temperature (LT) above the SCP (Bale, 1996). More cold-tolerant insects are generally  
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23  
24 52 categorised as either freeze-tolerant, surviving internal ice formation, or freeze-avoidant,  
25  
26 53 maintaining a low SCP, but being killed by internal ice (Lee, 2010). Overwintering insects  
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28  
29 54 usually need to survive long periods of cold exposure – often at mild temperatures if they  
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31 55 overwinter under the snow (Petty et al., 2015; Sømme, 1996), and because they usually cannot  
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33  
34 56 feed, they must either depress metabolic rate or accumulate energy reserves pre-winter (Sinclair,  
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36 57 2015). Because they may be exposed to vapour-pressure deficits and cold-active pathogens, they  
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38  
39 58 are also likely to have enhanced desiccation tolerance and immune function (Sinclair et al.,  
40  
41 59 2013). Thus, we expect a suite of enhanced stress tolerances to allow overwintering insects to  
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43 60 survive the multiple-stress environment of winter (Williams et al., 2015).  
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48 62         Physiological responses by ectotherms to stress are often plastic, varying across  
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51 63 developmental stages and seasons. Within a life stage, stress tolerance can change through  
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53 64 hardening, acclimation, or acclimatization responses (e.g. Ransberry et al., 2011). Hardening  
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55 65 may occur on short time scales, such as rapid cold hardening (RCH), where brief exposures to  
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58 66 low temperatures (e.g. 1 h at 0°C) induce a suite of physiological changes that confer improved  
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4 67 cold tolerance (Teets and Denlinger, 2013). By contrast, longer term responses such as  
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6 68 acclimation may occur over days-to-weeks, or across development. One seasonally-plastic  
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9 69 response is diapause, a state of developmental arrest characterised by reduced metabolism and  
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11 70 enhanced stress tolerance that is initiated, maintained, and terminated by specific environmental  
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14 71 cues (Košťál, 2006). Many temperate and polar insects overwinter in diapause, a state that is  
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16 72 often induced by short photoperiods, and is promoted by low temperatures (e.g. Lankinen et al.,  
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19 73 2013; Spielman and Wong, 1973; Tatar and Yin, 2001). Diapause termination often requires  
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21 74 specific cues, which may be some combination of temperature and photoperiod, and diapause is  
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23  
24 75 often only terminated after a required time period of dormancy (Tauber et al., 1986).  
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29 77 Overwintering adult insects may enter reproductive diapause, usually with high lipid  
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31 78 reserves to fuel overwinter metabolism (e.g. Ohtsu et al., 1992; Sim and Denlinger, 2013),  
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33 79 suppressed ovarian development (e.g. Sim and Denlinger, 2009), and enhanced tolerance of cold  
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36 80 (e.g. Vesala and Hoikkala, 2011) and desiccation (e.g. Benoit and Denlinger, 2007). The onset of  
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38 81 reproductive diapause is accompanied by suppressed insulin and juvenile hormone (JH)  
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41 82 signalling (Denlinger, 2002), causing an upregulation of *foxo* (*forkhead transcription factor*)  
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43 83 (Sim et al., 2015) and altered transcription of genes pertinent to vitellogenesis (e.g. Baker and  
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45 84 Russell, 2009; Sim and Denlinger, 2009), fat accumulation (e.g. Sim and Denlinger, 2013) and  
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48 85 stress tolerance (e.g. Baker and Russell, 2009). The latter includes genes that encode heat shock  
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51 86 proteins (e.g. King and MacRae, 2015; Rinehart et al., 2000) and antioxidant enzymes (e.g. Sim  
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53 87 and Denlinger, 2011). Diapause may also enhance immunity through upregulation of immune-  
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55 88 responsive genes, possibly protecting against infections over winter (e.g. Poelchau et al., 2013;  
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58 89 Ragland et al., 2010). In most species, patterns of gene expression in diapause are markedly  
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4 90 different to those associated with temperature-induced quiescence, for example, *Drosophila*  
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6 91 *montana* upregulate *actin*, *catalase*, *period*, and *Thor* when in diapause compared to quiescence  
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8  
9 92 (Salminen et al., 2015).

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11 93  
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14 94 Adult *Drosophila* are generally chill-susceptible (Nyamukondiwa et al., 2011), but often  
15  
16 95 have phenotypically-plastic stress tolerance. For example, combinations of hardening, rearing,  
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18  
19 96 and acclimation conditions lead to significant within-population variation in CT<sub>min</sub> and chill  
20  
21 97 coma recovery time in *Drosophila melanogaster* (Ransberry et al., 2011). Many *Drosophila* spp.  
22  
23 98 overwinter in apparent reproductive diapause with suppressed ovarian development (Carson and  
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26 99 Stalker, 1948; Kimura, 1988; Lumme et al., 1975; Muona and Lumme, 1981; Schmidt et al.,  
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28  
29 100 2005; Tyukmaeva et al., 2011; Watabe, 1983), higher lipid reserves (Ohtsu et al., 1992; Schmidt  
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31 101 et al., 2005) and enhanced cold tolerance (Schmidt and Paaby, 2008). However, diapause  
32  
33 102 incidence can vary considerably within a species, with diapause-inducing conditions failing to  
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36 103 suppress ovarian development in Australian *D. melanogaster* populations (Lee et al., 2011).  
37  
38 104 Often, this variation occurs along a cline, as has been observed for several *Drosophila* spp.  
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41 105 (Lankinen et al., 2013; Schmidt and Paaby, 2008; Tyukmaeva et al., 2011). In *Drosophila* spp.,  
42  
43 106 the term “reproductive diapause” has been used to describe a general ovarian dormancy, without  
44  
45  
46 107 necessarily requiring that the dormancy be maintained and terminated by specific cues. In this  
47  
48 108 paper we will adhere to the more stringent definition of diapause outlined by Košťál (2006),  
49  
50  
51 109 which requires that the dormancy be maintained by environmental cues other than temperature.

52  
53 110  
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55 111 Many overwintering *Drosophila* adults have enhanced melanisation (Gibert et al., 2007;  
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58 112 Stephens et al., 2015). Darker cuticles in *Drosophila* are associated with reduced water loss rates  
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113 (Parkash et al., 2014; Rajpurohit et al., 2008; Ramniwas et al., 2013) and increased immune  
114 function (Dubovskiy et al., 2013; Kutch et al., 2014). The upregulation of the immune-related  
115 gene *Thor* (Bernal and Kimbrell, 2000) in *D. montana* diapause (Salminen et al., 2015) also  
116 suggests enhanced immunity in association with reproductive diapause.

117  
118 *Drosophila suzukii* Matsumara (Diptera: Drosophilidae), commonly known as spotted  
119 wing drosophila, has recently emerged as a global pest of soft fruit (Walsh et al., 2011). *D.*  
120 *suzukii* females have a serrated ovipositor, which allows them to lay eggs in unripe fruit, causing  
121 major economic losses, particularly in stone fruit (cherry, peach, plum, nectarine), raspberry,  
122 blackberry, blueberry, strawberry, and grape crops (Deprá et al., 2014; Hauser, 2011; Walsh et  
123 al., 2011), causing severe economic damage (Bolda et al., 2010). *D. suzukii* originates from  
124 Southeast Asia with first descriptions from Japan (Kanzawa, 1939), where it mainly inhabits  
125 warm-temperate regions (Kondo and Kimura, 2008). Since first recorded in North America in  
126 California in 2008, *D. suzukii* has spread to Oregon, Washington, Florida and British Columbia  
127 (Canada) in 2009, and was recorded in Utah, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina,  
128 Wisconsin, Michigan, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec in 2010 (reviewed by Hauser,  
129 2011). Thus, it has spread to temperate climates where it is exposed to more severe winter  
130 conditions. While *D. suzukii* adults reared under summer-like conditions have limited cold  
131 tolerance (Jakobs et al. 2015), ‘winter morph’ adults with darkened cuticles have been captured  
132 in temperate regions in autumn (Stephens et al., 2015), and are probably the overwintering life  
133 stage (Kanzawa, 1939). Winter morph females have reduced ovarian development (Mitsui et al.,  
134 2010) and better tolerate brief exposure to low temperatures (Stephens et al., 2015) than their  
135 summer morph counterparts, and have been described as being in reproductive diapause (Zerulla

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136 et al., 2015). However, it has not been established whether this is a true diapause, and tolerance  
137 to other stresses pertinent to overwintering biology (e.g. desiccation) have not been investigated  
138 in either morph of this species.

139

140 Here we show that pupal development under low temperature and short day conditions  
141 (‘winter-acclimation’) induces a dark morph similar to the winter morph. Our goal was to  
142 determine whether these winter-acclimated *D. sukuzii* have the physiological and molecular  
143 characteristics of a true diapause, and whether they have enhanced stress tolerance relevant to  
144 overwintering. We examine ovarian development in response to different temperature and  
145 photoperiod cues, as well as energy stores, longevity, tolerance of cold and desiccation stress,  
146 immunity and expression of stress- and reproduction-related genes. We show that low  
147 temperatures delay reproductive maturity, and that winter-acclimated flies are more stress-  
148 tolerant than summer-acclimated *D. sukuzii*. Because changes in winter-acclimated flies appear  
149 to be regulated largely by temperature, we express doubt that this is a ‘true’ diapause.

150

## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Animal rearing and treatment groups

153 We used the laboratory population of *D. sukuzii* described by Jakobs et al. (2015) which was  
154 established from approximately 200 individuals collected in the Halton Hills region, Ontario,  
155 Canada (43°34’N 79°57’W, c. 200 m a.s.l.). The population was reared at 21.5±1°C and 60±5%  
156 relative humidity under 13:11 L:D, at a constant density (c. 70-100 individuals per 35 ml vial) on  
157 a banana medium (Markow and O’Grady, 2005), with a large outbred population maintained  
158 using population cages (Rajamohan and Sinclair, 2008). We also maintained a laboratory



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159 population of *D. suzukii* collected in Agassiz, British Columbia, Canada (49°24'N 121°76'W, c.  
160 12 m a.s.l.). Unless otherwise specified, we used the Ontario population for the experiments  
161 described below.

162  
163 We also opportunistically collected winter morph flies from the field. At dusk on October  
164 17, 2014, one of us (LVF) observed hundreds of wild *D. suzukii* on the windows of Nature  
165 Conservancy of Canada's Ivey Research Station on Pelee Island, Ontario, Canada (41°48'N  
166 82°37'W). We collected males and females and later confirmed the identification as *D. suzukii*  
167 using wing and genital morphology (Fig. 1A). We returned the animals to the laboratory,  
168 photographed whole flies and dissected ovaries from three females.

169  
170 Summer-acclimated flies (Fig. 1B, D) were held under the rearing conditions (21.5±1°C,  
171 60±5% relative humidity, 13:11 L:D). To induce a phenotype similar to the winter morph, vials  
172 containing wandering third instar larvae were transferred into 11°C, 10:14 L:D (MIR153, Sanyo,  
173 Bensenville, Illinois, USA). These winter-acclimated adults had a darkened cuticle (Fig. 1C), and  
174 ovaries were absent or underdeveloped 10 d post-eclosion, while summer morph females had  
175 fully-developed ovaries at this time (Fig. 2A). Flies were collected on the day of eclosion and  
176 sorted by sex under brief CO<sub>2</sub> exposure either immediately or 3 d after eclosion; we allowed flies  
177 at least three days under the rearing conditions to recover from CO<sub>2</sub> exposure prior to use in  
178 experiments, so most experiments were begun on flies 5-6 d post-eclosion (Nilson et al., 2006).  
179 All quantitative experimental data is available in a supplementary Excel spreadsheet  
180 (metadata.xlsx).

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182 *2.2. Ovarian development*

183 We examined reproductive development in Ontario laboratory winter-acclimated flies by  
184 visually assessing ovarian maturity in females reared under 11°C and 15°C, at both short (10:14  
185 L:D) and long (14:10 L:D) day lengths. We dissected ovaries from five females at 5, 10, 15, 20,  
186 and 30 d post-eclosion. We classified ovarian development into three stages: no development, in  
187 which the ovaries contained no visible yolk; partial development, in which the ovaries contained  
188 eggs partially filled with yolk; and full development, in which all eggs contained complete yolk  
189 (Fig. 2A-C). We also examined ovaries from winter-acclimated flies originating from British  
190 Columbia at 5 and 30 d post-eclosion, and from the flies collected from Pelee Island upon return  
191 to the laboratory.

193 *2.3. Energy stores*

194 We quantified neutral lipid and carbohydrate content of summer and winter-acclimated flies 8 h  
195 post-eclosion, following Williams (2012). Briefly, we homogenised groups of three flies in 1 ml  
196 chloroform: methanol (2:1 v/v; lipids) or ten flies in 200 µl 30% KOH (carbohydrates). We  
197 extracted neutral lipids from the homogenate using a modification of the Folch method and  
198 quantified them using TLC-FID (Iatroscan MK-6, Shell-USA, Fredericksburg, VA, USA), with  
199 cholesterol (not detectable in these flies) as an internal standard to correct for loss during  
200 extraction (Williams et al., 2011). We quantified total carbohydrates using the anthrone method  
201 (Carroll, 1955); briefly, we extracted glycogen from homogenised tissue suspensions with heat  
202 (100°C, 20 min), added 300 µl ethanol to 150 µl of homogenate and precipitated the glycogen  
203 from solution with 7.5 µl of saturated NaSO<sub>4</sub>. We dried and resuspended the glycogen pellet in  
204 water, added 750 µl of anthrone reagent (0.05% anthrone, 1% thiourea, 1 l 72% H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), cooled

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205 samples in an ice bath, heated samples at 100°C for 15 min, and re-cooled samples in an ice bath.

206 Absorbance of samples and standards were measured at 620 nm.

207  
208 We expressed lipid and carbohydrate content as  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mg}$  body tissue. We compared both  
209 quantities between summer- and winter-acclimated flies in R version 3.0.1 (R Development Core  
210 Team, 2013) using ANOVA with a square-root transformation of lipid content to meet  
211 assumptions of normality. Interactions between sex and acclimation were not significant and  
212 were removed to improve the fit of the model (Crawley, 2012).

213  
214 *2.4. Longevity and offspring production*

215 To determine if winter-acclimated flies have a longer lifespan than summer-acclimated flies, we  
216 placed groups of 8-10 flies (n= 3-10 groups/treatment) into vials containing banana medium at  
217 21.5°C and 13:11 L:D, and counted the number of surviving flies for each vial every 3-4 d for  
218 152 d. Because winter-acclimated females had undeveloped ovaries when isolated, and are thus  
219 unlikely to reproduce, we accounted for the effect of a decreased longevity through reproduction  
220 in case of the mated summer-acclimated females by also using virgin summer females. Thus the  
221 six experimental groups included mated and virgin summer-acclimated males and females; and  
222 winter-acclimated males and females. Summer-acclimated virgins were separated by sex within  
223 8 h of eclosion, and all other flies were sorted into vials 3 d post-eclosion. Flies were transferred  
224 to vials with fresh medium at each observation. Vials were retained for one month post-transfer  
225 to count the number of offspring produced by each group of females. We arcsine-square-root-  
226 transformed the proportion of surviving flies at each time point and used a non-linear mixed

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4 227 effects models in R with “vial” as a random effect to compare survival curves between  
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6 228 experimental groups.  
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11 230 *2.5. Gene expression*  
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14 231 We used reverse transcriptase quantitative PCR (RT-qPCR) to quantify transcript abundance of  
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16 232 genes associated with reproductive development, diapause, stress tolerance, and melanisation  
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18 233 (Table 1) in summer- and winter-acclimated flies during development. We collected individuals  
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20 234 at the following developmental stages: summer- and winter-acclimated wandering larvae, early  
21  
22 235 pupae (within 24 h of pupation), female late pupae (24 h before eclosion), 1- and 5-d-old female  
23  
24 236 adults; and winter-acclimated female adults 30 and 60 d post-eclosion. For each life stage, we  
25  
26 237 extracted total RNA from three samples of 8-10 individuals using TRIzol (Invitrogen, Burlington  
27  
28 238 ON, Canada), according to the manufacturer’s instructions. We synthesised cDNA (qScript  
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30 239 cDNA Supermix; Quanta Biosciences, Gaithersburg, MD, USA) from 500 ng of DNase-treated  
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32 240 RNA (PerfeCTa DNase I; Quanta Biosciences), according to the manufacturer’s protocols.  
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41 242 We designed primers (Table S1) to amplify 150 bp products for qPCR based on  
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43 243 sequences from the *D. suzukii* genome (Chiu et al., 2013), with the exception of *cpo*. Because  
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45 244 this sequence was unavailable from the *D. suzukii* genome assembly, we aligned *cpo* sequences  
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47 245 available in NCBI from other *Drosophila* spp. using Clustal Omega (Sievers et al., 2011), and  
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49 246 restricted primer design to conserved regions of this gene (see Fig. S1, Table S1 for details). We  
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51 247 sequenced the amplified *cpo* product at the London Regional Genomics Centre (Robarts  
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53 248 Research Institute, London ON, Canada), confirming that it had 99% identity to *D. melanogaster*  
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55 249 *cpo* sequences.  
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We conducted qPCR in 20 µl reactions with the PerfeCTa SYBR Green FastMix (Quanta Biosciences) using 0.2 µl cDNA as template and primers at 0.4 mM in a Bio-Rad CFX96 Real-Time System with a C1000 Thermal Cycler (Bio-Rad, Mississauga, ON, Canada). We conducted three technical replicates of each of the three biological replicates. We used the following reaction conditions: 2 min at 95°C, 40 cycles of 15 s at 95°C, 15 s at 60°C, and 30 at 72°C, with melt-curve determination in increments of 0.5°C from 65°C to 95°C. For quality control, we only used groups of technical replicates whose standard deviation in Ct was less than 0.2. We used the Bio-Rad CFX Manager (version 3.1) to determine the Ct value for each biological replicate, normalise expression against two housekeeping genes, *Efla48D* and *TBP* (Zhai et al., 2014), and calculate mean relative normalised expression ( $\Delta\Delta Ct$ ) of each gene for each developmental stage. We compared relative transcript abundance for each gene among acclimation regime and developmental stages using two-way ANOVAs in R.

## 2.6. Cold tolerance

We measured  $CT_{min}$  using a glass knock-down column as previously described (Ransberry et al., 2011). We transferred 500-800 summer- or winter-acclimated flies into the column and after 15 min equilibration at 21°C the column was cooled to -15°C at 0.1°C min<sup>-1</sup>. As each fly reached its  $CT_{min}$  and lost coordination, it fell out of the column and into a 50 ml plastic vial containing soapy water. This vial was changed every 1°C and flies were filtered out, sorted by sex, and counted. The temperature at which 80% of the flies enter chill coma ( $CT_{min80}$ ) was calculated and compared among sexes and acclimation regimes using accelerated-failure-time (AFT) models in R (Jakobs et al., 2015). Because the data were not normally-distributed,  $CT_{min}$  was compared

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273 between sex and acclimation regime using a Wilcoxon rank sum test and the effect of the  
274 interaction of the acclimation regime and sex was analysed with a Kruskal-Wallis test followed  
275 by a Wilcoxon pairwise comparison with Bonferroni-Holm correction.

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277 To determine the supercooling point (SCP), we placed adult flies individually into 1.7 ml  
278 microcentrifuge tubes in contact with a 36-AWG type-T copper-constantan thermocouple  
279 (Omega, Laval, Quebec, Canada). We placed the tubes an aluminium block cooled by 50%  
280 methanol circulated from a programmable refrigerated bath (Lauda Proline 3530, Würzburg,  
281 Germany). Flies were equilibrated at 0°C and cooled to -30°C at 0.1°C min<sup>-1</sup>. Temperature was  
282 recorded at 0.5 s intervals by Picolog v5.20.1 software (Pico Technology, Cambridge, UK) via a  
283 Pico Technology TC-08 interface. The SCP was defined as the lowest temperature before the  
284 exotherm caused by the latent heat of crystallisation (Lee, 2010). SCPs were compared among  
285 the acclimation regimes and sex using a two-way ANOVA and Tukey's post-hoc test in R.

286

287 We determined the cold tolerance strategy according to Sinclair et al. (2015). Flies were  
288 cooled as described for SCP determination (n = 10/morph/sex). After half the flies had frozen  
289 (indicated by the exotherm), all individuals were transferred individually to wells of 6-well cell  
290 culture plates at room temperature with a ca. 1 cm<sup>3</sup> piece of banana medium on three layers of  
291 paper towel. Survival was assessed as the ability to stand and move in a coordinated fashion after  
292 24 h. Flies were classified as chill-susceptible (died due to chilling injuries unrelated to freezing)  
293 if both unfrozen and frozen flies died, freeze-avoidant (died upon freezing) if only unfrozen flies  
294 survived, or freeze-tolerant if frozen flies survived.

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296 The acute lethal temperature (LT) of *D. suzukii* was estimated using 1 h exposures to sub-  
297 zero temperatures for each acclimation regime and sex. Groups of 7-10 flies were placed into a  
298 1.7 ml microcentrifuge tube and placed directly into a pre-cooled block and held for 1 h at  
299 temperatures ranging from -13°C to 0°C (encompassing 0-100% mortality). Temperature during  
300 exposure was recorded in every tube using thermocouples as above. All flies from each tube  
301 were placed into one well of a 6-well cell culture plate at room temperature containing ca. 1 cm<sup>3</sup>  
302 banana food and the proportion of surviving flies was assessed after 24 h.

304 The lethal time (Lt) of *D. suzukii* was determined under chronic cold exposure to 0°C by  
305 submerging three groups of ten flies of each acclimation regime and sex in an ice slurry for 1-24  
306 h (encompassing 0-100% mortality). Vials containing banana medium were enclosed in sealed  
307 plastic bags to avoid flooding, and the ice slurry was kept in a 20 L styrofoam container in a 4°C  
308 cold room, with ice added as needed to maintain the slurry temperature at 0°C. Three vials of  
309 summer-acclimated flies were removed daily to assess survival, while vials of winter-acclimated  
310 flies were removed twice per week. Survival was assessed after 24 h at the flies' rearing  
311 temperature. In addition, we placed two vials each of summer- and winter-acclimated adults  
312 under the snow for two weeks in London, Ontario (43°00'N 81°29'W, c. 250 m a.s.l.) from  
313 January 26 to February 9, 2015 to assess survival in a potential overwintering habitat.

315 The LT<sub>80-1h</sub> (temperature at which 80% of flies will die after a 1 h exposure) and Lt<sub>80</sub>  
316 (lethal time at which 80% die) were calculated for winter- and summer-acclimated females and  
317 males using a generalised linear model with a binary error distributions and logit link function

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318 and the fit was tested with Wald's  $\chi^2$  using the Glht() function in the package MASS in R  
319 (Venables and Ripley, 2002).

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321 To determine if winter-acclimated flies exhibit a rapid cold hardening (RCH) response,  
322 survival following acute exposure (as described above) to the  $LT_{80-1h}$  was determined in 3-6  
323 replicates of ten winter-acclimated flies per sex exposed to a pre-treatment of 1 h at 0°C,  
324 followed by 1 h recovery at the rearing temperature, as well as winter-acclimated flies that  
325 experienced no pre-treatment (Jakobs et al., 2015). The arcsine square root transformation of the  
326 proportion of surviving flies was compared among the two treatments and sexes using a two-way  
327 ANOVA in R.

329 *2.7. Desiccation tolerance*

330 The time to death of flies exposed to desiccating conditions was determined by sealing groups of  
331 flies in vials with silica gel (Gibbs and Matzkin, 2001). We placed ten replicates of 7-10 flies per  
332 acclimation regime and sex in empty 35 mL vials (n=10), with a foam stopper overlaid with 3 g  
333 of silica gel and sealed with Parafilm. We counted the number of surviving flies in each vial  
334 every 3 h from 0 h to 24 h (encompassing 0-100% mortality) at room temperature (c. 23°C). We  
335 compared survival among groups over time as for the longevity analysis. The  $Lt_{80}$  for desiccation  
336 was determined via a generalised linear model as for chronic cold exposure.

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338 *2.8. Fungal infections*

339 To determine if cold-acclimation increased the immunity of winter-acclimated flies, we gently  
340 shook groups of ten 6-d-old virgin male and female flies of each morph for 30 s on an agar plate



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341 containing sporulating *Metarhizium brunneum*, following Le Bourg et al. (2009). Non-infected  
342 controls of each sex and acclimation regime were shaken on a sterile plate. We returned groups  
343 of ten flies to food vials at either 12°C or 21.5°C, and recorded the proportion of surviving flies  
344 every 24 h. We compared survival over time of summer- and winter -acclimated males and  
345 females at each temperature using non-linear mixed effects models as described for the longevity  
346 analysis.

### 348 3. Results

#### 349 3.1. Winter-acclimated adults delay ovarian development

350 Adults from laboratory populations from Ontario and British Columbia developed a darkened  
351 cuticle when reared at 11°C (Fig. 1), and ovarian development was delayed by low temperatures  
352 (Fig. 2). Field-collected flies also displayed dark cuticles and reduced ovarian development,  
353 similar to flies reared at 11°C in the laboratory (Fig. 1). At 21.5°C, summer-acclimated females  
354 complete ovarian development by 10 d post-eclosion (representative ovaries in Fig. 2A). At  
355 15°C, ovarian development was complete by 20 d post-eclosion, and was complete in most flies  
356 reared at 11°C by 30 d post-eclosion. The ovarian development at 11°C and 15°C did not vary  
357 with photoperiod (Fig. 2), nor did cuticular darkening (data not shown). Females transferred  
358 from 11°C (10:14 L:D) to 21.5°C (13:11 L:D) at 10 d post-eclosion became reproductively  
359 active within three days. Further, we observed eggs and larvae in food vials of flies at 11°C  
360 (10:14 L:D) 30 to 60 d post-eclosion.

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362 3.2. Winter- and summer-acclimated flies have similar lipid and carbohydrate contents

363 The only neutral lipid class we detected in *D. suzukii* <8 h post-eclosion was triacylglycerols  
364 (Fig. S2). Triacylglycerol content (summer acclimation:  $82.2 \pm 14.4 \mu\text{g} \cdot \text{mg tissue}^{-1}$ ; winter  
365 acclimation:  $81.3 \pm 17.7 \mu\text{g} \cdot \text{mg tissue}^{-1}$ ) and carbohydrate content (summer acclimation:  $4.3 \pm 0.9$   
366  $\mu\text{g} \cdot \text{mg tissue}^{-1}$ ; winter acclimation:  $4.8 \pm 0.9 \mu\text{g} \cdot \text{mg tissue}^{-1}$ ) did not differ between morphs or by  
367 sex (TAG: sex:  $F_{1,16}=0.004$ ,  $P=0.95$ ; acclimation regime:  $F_{1,16}=0.02$ ,  $P=0.88$ ; Carbohydrate: sex:  
368  $F_{1,22}=0.05$ ,  $P=0.81$ ; acclimation regime:  $F_{1,22}=0.31$ ,  $P=0.58$ ).

370 3.3. Acclimation regime and reproduction alter longevity

371 Isolated winter-acclimated females and virgin summer-acclimated females produced no  
372 offspring, while mated summer-acclimated females laid viable eggs for up to 85 d post-eclosion.  
373 When maintained at 21.5 °C, winter-acclimated females had higher survival than summer-  
374 acclimated females (acclimation regime:  $t_{702}=4.65$ ,  $P<0.001$ ; time:  $t_{702}=54.43$ ,  $P<0.001$ ;  
375 acclimation regime  $\times$  time:  $t_{702}=0.95$ ,  $P=0.34$ ), with mated summer-acclimated female mortality  
376 occurring 24 d before summer-acclimated virgin and winter-acclimated females (reproductive  
377 status:  $t_{702}=1.04$ ,  $P=0.30$ ; time:  $t_{702}=47.84$ ,  $P<0.001$ ; reproductive status  $\times$  time:  $t_{702}=4.16$ ,  
378  $P<0.001$ ; Fig. 3A, Table 2). Summer-acclimated males survived for approximately 15 d longer  
379 than winter-acclimated males (acclimation regime:  $t_{820}=2.05$ ,  $P=0.04$ ; time:  $t_{820}=65.51$ ,  $P<0.001$ ;  
380 acclimation regime  $\times$  time:  $t_{820}=1.03$ ,  $P=0.30$ ; Fig. 3B, Table 2).

382 3.4. Winter-acclimated females differentially express stress- and reproduction-related genes

383 Transcript levels of all genes varied during development (Table 3). Several stress-related gene  
384 transcript levels increased in winter-acclimated, but not summer-acclimated, flies post-eclosion,

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4 385 including *Cat* and *Sod*, which encode oxidative stress enzymes, and *smp-30* (Fig. 4A-C, Table  
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7 386 3). Winter-acclimated females upregulated two heat shock protein genes, *Hsp83* and *Hsc70-4*, at  
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9 387 all developmental stages, while *Hsp27* did not differ between winter- and summer-acclimated  
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11 388 flies, and *Hsp23* had lower transcript levels in winter-acclimated pupae (Fig. 4D-G, Table 3).  
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14 389 *PPO1* expression increased late in pupal development, but transcript levels did not differ  
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16 390 between winter- and summer-acclimated groups (Fig. 4H, Table 3).  
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21 392 Transcript abundance of the regulatory genes *Jheh1* and *Thor* increased in wandering  
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24 393 larvae after 24 h at 11°C, and in 6 d winter-acclimated females, whereas *foxo* was upregulated in  
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26 394 1 d winter-acclimated females (24 h post-eclosion) (Fig. 4I-K, Table 3). Downregulation of *cpo*  
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28 395 in summer-acclimated adults coincided with expression of *Yp1*, while winter-acclimated adults  
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30 396 maintained high *cpo* transcript levels and did not express *Yp1* (Fig. 4L,M, Table 3).  
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36 398 *3.5. Winter-acclimated flies are active at lower temperatures and more cold-tolerant than*  
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38 399 *summer-acclimated flies*

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41 400 The temperature at which 80% of flies had entered chill coma ( $CT_{min80}$ ) ranged from 0.5°C to -  
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43 401 5.5°C, and was approximately 5°C lower in winter- than summer-acclimated flies (acclimation  
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45 402 regime:  $W = 163640$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; sex:  $W = 78912$ ,  $P < 0.001$ , acclimation regime  $\times$  sex: Kruskal-  
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47 403 Wallis  $\chi^2=369.23$ ,  $df= 3$ ,  $P<0.001$ ; Table 2).  
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53 405 SCP ranged from -22.4°C in a summer-acclimated male to -14.3°C in a summer-  
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55 406 acclimated female. The mean SCP of summer-acclimated males was lower than the other groups  
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57 407 (sex:  $F_{1,72}=27.367$ ,  $P<0.001$ ; acclimation regime:  $F_{1,72}=22.395$ ,  $P<0.001$ , sex  $\times$  acclimation  
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4 408 regime:  $F_{1,72}=9.81$ ,  $P<0.001$ ; Table 2). However no fly from any group survived freezing or  
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6 409 temperatures close to the SCP, thus we consider all groups to be chill-susceptible (Table 2).  
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11 An acute (1 h) low-temperature exposure caused mortality below  $-5.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  for summer-  
12 411 acclimated flies and below  $-7.8^{\circ}\text{C}$  for winter-acclimated flies, with winter-acclimated flies  
13 412 surviving temperatures approximately  $3^{\circ}\text{C}$  lower than summer-acclimated flies (Fig. 5A,B;  
14 413 Table 2,4). When exposed to  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ , all summer-acclimated *D. sukuzii* were dead within 1 week, a  
15 414 time period that almost all winter-acclimated adults survived (Fig. 5C,D). Based on the  $\text{LT}_{80}$ ,  
16 415 winter-acclimated adults survived for approximately 10 d longer at  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$  than summer-acclimated  
17 416 adults (Table 2, Table S2). Summer-acclimated flies under the snow cover during the London,  
18 417 ON, winter also had 100% mortality after one week, while winter-acclimated flies had 70%  
19 418 mortality after one week under the snow, and 100% mortality after two weeks. During this  
20 419 period, the minimum temperature below the snow during the first week was  $-1.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and  $-1.1^{\circ}\text{C}$   
21 420 during the second week. The RCH treatment increased the proportion of winter-acclimated flies  
22 421 surviving a 1 h exposure at the  $\text{LT}_{80}$  by 35% (treatment:  $F_{1,18}=13.626$ ,  $P=0.002$ ; sex:  $F_{1,18}=0.101$ ,  
23 422  $P=0.78$ , treatment  $\times$  sex:  $F_{1,18}=0.013$ ,  $P=0.91$ ; Table 2).  
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### 26 425 3.6. Winter- and summer-acclimated flies are desiccation-sensitive

27 426 All *D. sukuzii* exposed to desiccating conditions at c.  $23^{\circ}\text{C}$  died within 24 h (Fig. 6). Females  
28 427 survived for 3 to 4 h longer than males of the same acclimation regime (sex:  $t_{320}=3.24$ ,  $P=0.001$ ;  
29 428 time:  $t_{320}=32.86$ ,  $P<0.001$ ; sex  $\times$  time:  $t_{320}=0.92$ ,  $P=0.36$ ; Fig. 6; Table 2). Winter-acclimated  
30 429 flies under desiccating conditions did not survive significantly longer than summer-acclimated  
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flies (morph:  $t_{320}=0.29$ ,  $P=0.77$ ; time:  $t_{320}=32.23$ ,  $P<0.001$ , sex  $\times$  time:  $t_{320}=1.32$ ,  $P=0.19$ ; Fig. 6; Table 2).

### 3.7. Winter-acclimated females are more resistant to fungal infections than summer-acclimated females at warm temperatures

Non-infected flies had 100% survival for the duration of fungal infection experiments. At 21.5°C, most fungal-infected flies died within two weeks, while survival at 12°C exceeded 30 d (Fig. 7). Female winter-acclimated flies had better survival over time following fungal infection than summer-acclimated flies at 21.5°C (acclimation regime:  $t_{172}=2.30$ ,  $P=0.02$ ; time:  $t_{172}=22.99$ ,  $P<0.001$ ; acclimation regime  $\times$  time:  $t_{172}=2.50$ ,  $P=0.01$ ; Fig. 7). However, we observed no difference between infected winter- and summer-acclimated females at 12°C (acclimation regime:  $t_{288}=1.89$ ,  $P=0.06$ ; time:  $t_{288}=16.58$ ,  $P<0.001$ ; acclimation regime  $\times$  time:  $t_{288}=0.03$ ,  $P=0.97$ ; Fig. 7). Male survival of fungal infection did not vary between acclimation regimes at either 21.5°C (acclimation regime:  $t_{130}=1.48$ ,  $P=0.14$ ; time:  $t_{130}=21.37$ ,  $P<0.001$ ; Fig. 7) or 12°C (acclimation regime:  $t_{289}=0.03$ ,  $P=0.98$ ; time:  $t_{289}=20.38$ ,  $P<0.001$ ; Fig. 7).

## 4. Discussion

When wandering larvae are reared under short days and low temperatures (i.e. winter acclimation), laboratory populations of *D. sukikii* adults from both Ontario and British Columbia exhibited a ‘winter morph’ – characterized by a darkened cuticle and underdeveloped or absent ovaries – comparable to specimens observed by us in the field in Ontario (Pelee Island) and reported elsewhere (e.g. Zerulla et al., 2015). We observed this cuticular darkening when larvae were exposed to both short and long days at 11°C, but not at 15°C or 21.5°C (data not shown).

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4 453 This suggests that low temperature, rather than photoperiod, is the cue for increased melanisation  
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6 454 in the winter-acclimated flies.

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12 456 The delay in ovarian development we observed in winter-acclimated flies also appears to  
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14 457 be primarily regulated by temperature. Flies had fully-developed ovaries by 10 d post-eclosion at  
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16 458 21.5°C, 20 d post-eclosion at 15°C, and 30 d post-eclosion at 11°C, regardless of day length.  
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19 459 Temperature-dependence of ovarian development in our study is consistent with gene expression  
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21 460 data: the vitellogenic *Yp1* transcripts were present in summer-acclimated adults 1 and 6 d post-  
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23 461 eclosion, whereas winter-acclimated adults of the same age lacked the transcript, indicating that  
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25 462 winter-acclimated flies are not producing yolk in the period immediately after eclosion. *Yp1*  
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27 463 transcript levels remain low in 30 and 60 d-old winter-acclimated females, suggesting that egg  
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29 464 production is slow at 11°C. *Jheh1* expression increased when wandering larvae were transferred  
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31 465 to 11°C, which is consistent with a model of suppressed JH signalling causing a reproductive  
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33 466 delay (Sim et al., 2015). The suppression of ovarian development in winter-acclimated females  
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35 467 coincided with high levels of *foxo* and *cpo* transcripts, whose products are hypothesized to  
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37 468 contribute to suppression of vitellogenesis (Schmidt et al., 2008; Sim et al., 2015). *Hsp23*  
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39 469 expression is associated with vitellogenic *D. montana* females (Salminen et al., 2015), which  
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41 470 may explain its reduced expression in winter-acclimated *D. sukuzii* females.  
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51 472 While many insects accumulate considerable energy stores (e.g. lipids or carbohydrates)  
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53 473 prior to overwintering (Sim and Denlinger, 2013), newly-eclosed winter-acclimated *D. sukuzii*  
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55 474 had similar triacylglycerol and carbohydrate content to summer-acclimated flies. We note that  
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57 475 these energy stores could be adequate to fuel overwintering if metabolic rate is decreased in  
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4 476 winter-acclimated flies (Hahn and Denlinger, 2007). However, we shifted only wandering larvae  
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7 477 to the winter-acclimation regime, which meant that there was no additional opportunity to  
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9 478 accumulate lipid reserves during larval development, which may explain why our flies did not  
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12 479 have increased body size described elsewhere for ‘winter morphs’ (Zerulla et al. 2015). In  
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14 480 addition, we did not determine whether adult winter-acclimated flies accumulate additional  
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16 481 energy stores when feeding. Adults from the *D. auraria* complex reared under low temperatures  
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19 482 and short photoperiods accumulate triacylglycerol contents two-fold higher than summer-  
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21 483 acclimated flies during a period 8 to 32 d post-eclosion (Ohtsu et al., 1992). Thus, measuring  
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24 484 energy accumulation and use both during larval development and in adult flies post-eclosion will  
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26 485 be necessary to fully determine whether *D. sukikii* employs an energy conservation or  
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29 486 accumulation strategy to fuel overwinter energetic demands.  
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33 488 In addition to delayed reproductive maturity, winter-acclimated *D. sukikii* had enhanced  
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36 489 stress tolerance and altered gene expression suggestive of increased stress tolerance. Winter-  
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39 490 acclimated flies were more cold-tolerant than summer-acclimated flies, with a lower chill coma  
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41 491 onset temperature ( $CT_{min80}$ ), and lethal temperature ( $LT_{80}$ ), consistent with Stephens et al.  
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43 492 (2015). *D. sukikii* SCPs did not differ with acclimation regime, were comparable to SCPs of  
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46 493 other *Drosophila* spp. (Andersen et al., 2015), and likely do not reflect cold tolerance in this  
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48 494 chill-susceptible species. Winter-acclimated adults also displayed a robust rapid cold-hardening  
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51 495 response compared to summer-acclimated adults as examined by Jakobs et al. (2015).  
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55 497 The  $CT_{min}$  of winter- and summer-acclimated *D. sukikii* are within the range of  $CT_{min}$   
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58 498 observed for other mid-latitude (38-50°) *Drosophila* spp. (Andersen et al., 2015). However,  
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4 499 although winter-acclimated adults had a lower  $CT_{min}$  and survived for longer at 0°C than  
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6 500 summer-acclimated flies, they were killed after three weeks at 0°C. This is consistent with  
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9 501 mortality we observed in field-deployed winter-acclimated flies, and suggests that the winter-  
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11 502 acclimated flies reared in this study would be unlikely to survive for long enough at 0°C to  
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14 503 successfully overwinter in Ontario. We expected winter-acclimated flies to be more desiccation-  
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16 504 tolerant than summer-acclimated flies, because darker cuticles are associated with reduced water  
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19 505 loss rates in other species of *Drosophila* (Parkash et al., 2014; Rajpurohit et al., 2008; Ramniwas  
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21 506 et al., 2013). However, flies from both acclimation regimes were similarly desiccation-sensitive  
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24 507 at room temperature, although we did not measure water loss rates or cuticular water loss, which  
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26 508 means we cannot entirely rule out melanisation-related reduced cuticular permeability in winter-  
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29 509 acclimated *D. suzukii*. In addition, are expected to be lower at lower temperatures, so water  
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31 510 balance under overwintering conditions is an avenue for further study.

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36 512         Some of the enhanced cold tolerance of the winter-acclimated could be attributed to  
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38 513 increased expression of oxidative stress enzymes (*Sod*, *Cat*), which are upregulated in several  
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41 514 diapausing insects (Salminen et al., 2015; Sim and Denlinger, 2011). Sim and Denlinger (2011)  
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43 515 demonstrated that *Cat* expression is required for longevity and prevention of ovarian follicle  
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46 516 degeneration in diapausing mosquitoes, and it is therefore possible that antioxidant enzyme  
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48 517 expression in winter-acclimated *D. suzukii* contributes to enhanced survival at 0°C. At higher  
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51 518 temperatures (21.5°C), however, longevity was primarily determined by reproductive activity in  
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53 519 female *D. suzukii*, with similar survival in virgin summer-acclimated flies and non-reproductive  
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56 520 winter-acclimated flies. Mated summer-acclimated females had lower longevity, likely due to  
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58 521 energy expended in producing offspring (Flatt and Kawecki, 2007). However, male winter-



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4 522 acclimated flies had shorter lifespans at 21.5°C than summer-acclimated flies, in contrast to *D.*  
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6 523 *melanogaster* that survive similarly at 25°C whether acclimated at 11°C or 25°C (Tatar et al.,  
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9 524 2001). We did not measure longevity at moderately low temperatures (e.g. 4 °C, as is commonly  
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11 525 found beneath snow), and speculate that longevity may be adequate to survive the winter if  
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14 526 measured at low temperatures where flies may not be accumulating chilling injuries, as has been  
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16 527 reported for *D. melanogaster* by Tatar et al. (2001).  
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21 529 Heat shock proteins can considerably enhance stress tolerance (King and MacRae, 2015).  
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24 530 Indeed, *Hsp83* was upregulated throughout development of the winter-acclimated flies. By  
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26 531 contrast, *Hsp27* transcript levels did not differ between summer and winter-acclimated flies,  
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29 532 similar to several heat shock proteins during *D. triauraria* reproductive diapause (Goto and  
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31 533 Kimura, 2004). The gene *smp-30* is induced by cold acclimation in *D. melanogaster* (Goto,  
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33 534 2000), expressed in diapausing *D. montana* females (Kankare et al., 2010), and is also  
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36 535 upregulated in winter-acclimated *D. suzukii*. *smp-30* has similar functional motifs to *regucalcin*,  
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38 536 which is upregulated during initiation of *D. montana* reproductive diapause (Salminen et al.,  
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41 537 2015), but is not induced following chill coma in *D. melanogaster* (Reis et al., 2011). The  
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43 538 upregulation of *smp-30* in winter-acclimated *D. suzukii* appears to be a response to cold  
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46 539 acclimation, however the role of this gene in conferring cold tolerance remains unclear in  
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48 540 *Drosophila*.  
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53 542 Fungal or bacterial pathogens can be a key source of overwinter mortality (Colinet et al.,  
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55 543 2015; Hokkanen, 1993; Sinclair et al., 2013; Williams et al., 2015). Because the melanisation  
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58 544 cascade is associated with both cuticle darkening and encapsulation responses (Dubovskiy et al.,  
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2013; Kutch et al., 2014), we expected winter-acclimated flies to have improved immunocompetence in association with the darkened cuticle. However, male winter-acclimated flies had no survival advantage over their summer-acclimated counterparts, and female winter-acclimated flies only had improved survival to fungal infection in warm (21.5°C) but not cool (12°C) conditions. Increased melanisation alone was therefore insufficient to increase immunocompetence. The greater fungal resistance of winter-acclimated compared to summer-acclimated females at 21.5°C suggests that winter-acclimated females can take advantage of warm spells to fight infection (Colinet et al., 2015). These results are consistent with *PPO1* expression patterns, which did not differ between summer- and winter-acclimated *D. suzukii*; *PPO1* is important for melanin-based immune function in *D. melanogaster* (Binggeli et al., 2014). The elevated *Thor* expression in 6-d-old winter-acclimated females may contribute to the enhanced immunocompetence exhibited by these females under warm conditions (Bernal and Kimbrell, 2000).

4.1. Are winter-acclimated *D. suzukii* in diapause?

The winter-acclimated *D. suzukii* in our study had enhanced stress tolerance and apparent suppression of ovarian development; however, we do not believe this represents diapause *sensu stricto*. Photoperiod had no effect on either reproductive development or cuticular darkening (which appeared to be entirely temperature-dependent), and the ovarian developmental delay we observed appeared to simply be due to slower growth at low temperatures rather than induced by a particular environmental cue (Košťál, 2006). This differs from early work on *D. melanogaster*, which found that low temperatures and short days are both required to induce suppression of ovarian development (Saunders et al. 1989), but is consistent with later *D. melanogaster* work, in

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4 568 which low temperatures caused ovarian suppression under both long and short days (Tatar et al.  
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6 569 2001), with lower temperatures resulting in more severe ovarian suppression (Lee et al., 2011).  
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9 570 We did not, however, examine an extensive range of photoperiods (cf. Lankinen et al., 2013), so  
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11 571 it is possible that reproductive diapause could be induced under a different combination of day  
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14 572 lengths and temperatures, or with exposure to short days earlier in development (Saunders,  
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16 573 2014). Furthermore, we found no evidence that ovarian development was suppressed by cues  
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19 574 other than temperature. Winter-acclimated flies transferred from 11°C to 21.5°C resumed  
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21 575 ovarian development almost immediately, similar to *D. melanogaster* transferred from 11°C to  
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24 576 25°C (Tatar et al., 2001), suggesting that reproduction is not actively suppressed. Flies resumed  
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26 577 reproduction once ovarian development was complete at 11°C even under short days, similar to  
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29 578 spontaneous ‘diapause’ termination observed in *D. melanogaster* within 6-7 weeks post-eclosion  
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31 579 (Lee et al., 2011), implying that no particular environmental cue was required to terminate the  
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34 580 reproductive developmental delay (Košťál, 2006). Thus, the lack of ovarian development  
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36 581 associated with winter-acclimated *D. sukukii* is not consistent with a true diapause, but likely  
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39 582 reflects slow development at low temperatures.  
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43 584 The expression levels of candidate diapause-related genes are also not strongly  
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46 585 supportive of a true diapause in winter-acclimated *D. sukukii*. Based on the current model that JH  
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48 586 and insulin suppression leads to expression of the transcription factor *foxo* and its targets (Sim et  
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51 587 al., 2015), we expect JH esterases (e.g. *Jheh1*) to initiate JH suppression and subsequently  
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53 588 increase *foxo* expression (Poelchau et al., 2013). However, *Jheh1* is only substantially  
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56 589 upregulated after *foxo* transcript abundance peaks in *D. sukukii* winter-acclimated flies. The  
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58 590 putative targets of FOXO, *Thor* and *cpo*, which are upregulated in *D. montana* diapause  
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4 591 (Kankare et al., 2010; Salminen et al., 2015), are also upregulated in *D. suzukii* winter-  
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6 592 acclimated adults. However, although *foxo* upregulation coincides with the increase in *cpo*  
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8 593 transcript abundance, further supporting that FOXO induces *cpo* expression in *D. suzukii*,  
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11 594 increased *Thor* expression does not coincide with *foxo* transcript abundance. Thus, it appears that  
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14 595 transcription factors other than *foxo* could regulate *Thor* in *D. suzukii*. *Hsc70-4*, which is  
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16 596 upregulated during *D. montana* diapause termination (Salminen et al., 2015), is also expressed in  
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19 597 *D. suzukii* winter-acclimated females, but its expression is not restricted to the time at which  
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21 598 ovarian development resumes. Thus, although we observed some upregulation of diapause-  
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24 599 related genes in winter-acclimated *D. suzukii*, the timing of this upregulation is inconsistent with  
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26 600 diapause as characterised in other *Drosophila* species.  
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31 602           Nevertheless, the enhanced stress tolerance of winter-acclimated *D. suzukii* means they  
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33 603 are more likely to successfully overwinter than summer-acclimated flies. The low  $CT_{min}$  of  
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36 604 winter-acclimated flies suggests they could remain active under snow cover during winter, when  
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38 605 80% of summer-acclimated flies would be in chill coma and unable to feed or select beneficial  
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41 606 microhabitats. Although winter-acclimated flies from the laboratory did not survive under the  
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43 607 snow for more than two weeks, they exhibited a RCH response that increased survival at the  
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46 608  $LT_{80-1h}$ . Therefore, cold tolerance of winter-acclimated adults is plastic during and after exposure  
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48 609 to low environmental temperatures, improving the probability of successful overwintering. The  
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51 610 acclimation conditions we used to induce the ‘winter morph’ (11°C, 10:14 L:D) were  
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53 611 representative of typical autumn conditions in southern Ontario, but do not capture the thermal  
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55 612 variability that *D. suzukii* would experience in nature. While Stephens et al. (2015) suggest  
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58 613 neither summer nor winter morph *D. suzukii* are likely to survive winter conditions, it is possible  
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614 that developmental or adult acclimation (or repair of accumulated damage) under a fluctuating  
615 thermal regime would promote increased stress tolerance (Colinet et al., 2015), extending  
616 survival (and possibly longevity) of *D. sukukii* during overwintering conditions.

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618 **5. Conclusions**

619 While not an example of true diapause, *D. sukukii* stress tolerance increases due to both  
620 developmental and adult acclimation at low temperatures, improving the cold tolerance and low  
621 temperature activity of this chill-susceptible species. This stress tolerance in winter-acclimated  
622 flies coincides with increased cuticle melanisation and female reproductive delay. Higher  
623 melanisation does not appear to improve desiccation tolerance or immunocompetence. However,  
624 stress-related genes upregulated in winter-acclimated flies, such as those encoding antioxidants,  
625 heat shock proteins, and smp-30, may underlie the increase cold tolerance we observed. The  
626 temperature-induced delay in reproductive development is likely mediated through suppression  
627 of *Yp1* expression by high levels of *foxo* and *cpo*. Future studies should examine the extent to  
628 which these genes affect the stress tolerance and reproductive physiology of *D. sukukii*, and the  
629 impact of other acclimation treatments (e.g. fluctuating thermal regimes) on the ability of this  
630 pest to withstand overwintering stresses.

631

632 **6. Acknowledgements**

633 Thanks to Patricia Gibert and two anonymous referees for comments on earlier drafts of the ms.  
634 We are grateful to Huda Al-Sharafi, Iman Ashali, Jill Croswaithe, Kimberly Gibbens, Daniel Ha,  
635 Daniel Leonard Wyzynski, Andrew McLeod, Maryam Mohammed, Howard Ong, Joanne Tang,  
636 Albert Vo and Halima Warsame for help collecting and rearing flies, and to Justin Renkema and

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637 Dave Gillespie for supplying us with Ontario and British Columbia flies, respectively. This work  
638 was supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada via a  
639 Discovery Grant to BJS, PGS-D to LVF and CGS-D to JT, and by Agriculture and Agri-Food  
640 Canada Agriflex funds to TDG.

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**Figure legends**

**Fig. 1. Summer and winter morphs of *Drosophila suzukii*.** Dorsal view of (A) field-collected winter morph *D. suzukii* female from Pelee Island, Ontario, Canada and (B) lab-reared, summer-acclimated *D. suzukii*. Lateral view of lab-reared (C) winter-acclimated and (D) summer-acclimated *D. suzukii* females.

**Fig. 2. The effect temperature and photoperiod on ovarian development in *D. suzukii*.** Representative ovaries dissected from *D. suzukii* females with (A) zero, (B) partial, or (C) full ovarian development. The proportion of each class of ovaries in groups of five females reared under (D) 11°C and short days, 10:14 L:D, (E) 15°C and short days, 10:14 L:D, (F) 11°C and long days, 14:10 L:D, and (G) 15°C and long days, 14:10 L:D.

**Fig. 3. The effect of acclimation regime and reproductive activity on longevity of *D. suzukii*.** The proportion of surviving (A) females and (B) males over time at 21.5°C, 13:11 L:D. Each point represents the mean±s.e.m proportion of surviving flies from 3-9 vials (7-10 flies/vial). \* indicates a significant effect of morph, † indicates a significant reproductive status × time interaction (non-linear mixed effects model details in text).

**Fig. 4. Gene expression of summer- and winter-acclimated *D. suzukii* during development.** Transcript abundance of target genes were normalised to the housekeeping genes *Efla48D* and *TBP*. (A) *smp-30*, (B) *Cat*, (C) *Sod*, (D) *Hsp83*, (E) *Hsc70-4*, (F) *Hsp27*, (G) *Hsp23*, (H) *PPO1*, (I) *Jheh1*, (J) *foxo*, (K) *Thor*, (L) *cpo*, and (M) *Yp1*. Each point represents the mean±s.e.m of three biological replicates of 8-10 individuals at a particular life stage: wandering larvae (Larva), pupae within 24 h of pupation (Early Pupa) or 24 h pre-eclosion (Late Pupa), and adults 1, 6, 30 and 60 d post-eclosion (1 d, 6 d, 30 d, 60 d, respectively). Open circles, dashed line: summer-

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4 914 acclimated flies; closed circles, solid line: winter-acclimated flies. \* indicates a significant effect  
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6 915 of acclimation regime, † indicates a significant acclimation regime × developmental stage  
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9 916 interaction (two-way ANOVA, details in Table 3).

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12 917 **Fig. 5. Acute and chronic cold tolerance of summer- and winter-acclimated *D. sukii*.**  
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15 918 Survival of groups of 7-10 (A) female and (B) male flies 24 h after 1 h (acute) exposures to  
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17 919 temperatures between 0°C and -13°C, and (C) female and (D) male flies following 1 to 24 d  
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20 920 (chronic) exposures to 0°C. Each point represents the proportion of surviving flies in a single  
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22 921 vial (7-10 flies/vial). The intersection between the dotted line and each curve indicates the  
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25 922 temperature (LT<sub>80-1h</sub>, A & B) or time (Lt<sub>80</sub>, C & D) at which 80% mortality occurred. There was  
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27 923 no effect of sex, so males and females were pooled for analysis. \* indicates a significant effect of  
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30 924 acclimation regime, † indicates a significant acclimation regime × temperature or time  
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32 925 interaction, # indicates a significant acclimation regime × sex interaction (generalised linear  
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35 926 model, details in Table S2).

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38 927 **Fig. 6. Desiccation tolerance of summer- and winter-acclimated flies.** The proportion of  
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40 928 surviving (A) females and (B) males desiccated in vials containing Silica gel at room  
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43 929 temperature. Each point represents the mean±s.e.m proportion of surviving flies from ten vials  
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45 930 (8-10 flies/vial). There was a significant effect of sex, but no effect of acclimation regime (non-  
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48 931 linear mixed effects model details in text).

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51 932 **Fig. 7. Survival following fungal infection of summer- and winter-acclimated flies.** The  
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53 933 proportion of surviving (A) females and (B) males at 12°C and (C) females and (D) males at  
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56 934 25°C following fungal infection with *Metarhizium brunneum*. Each point represents the

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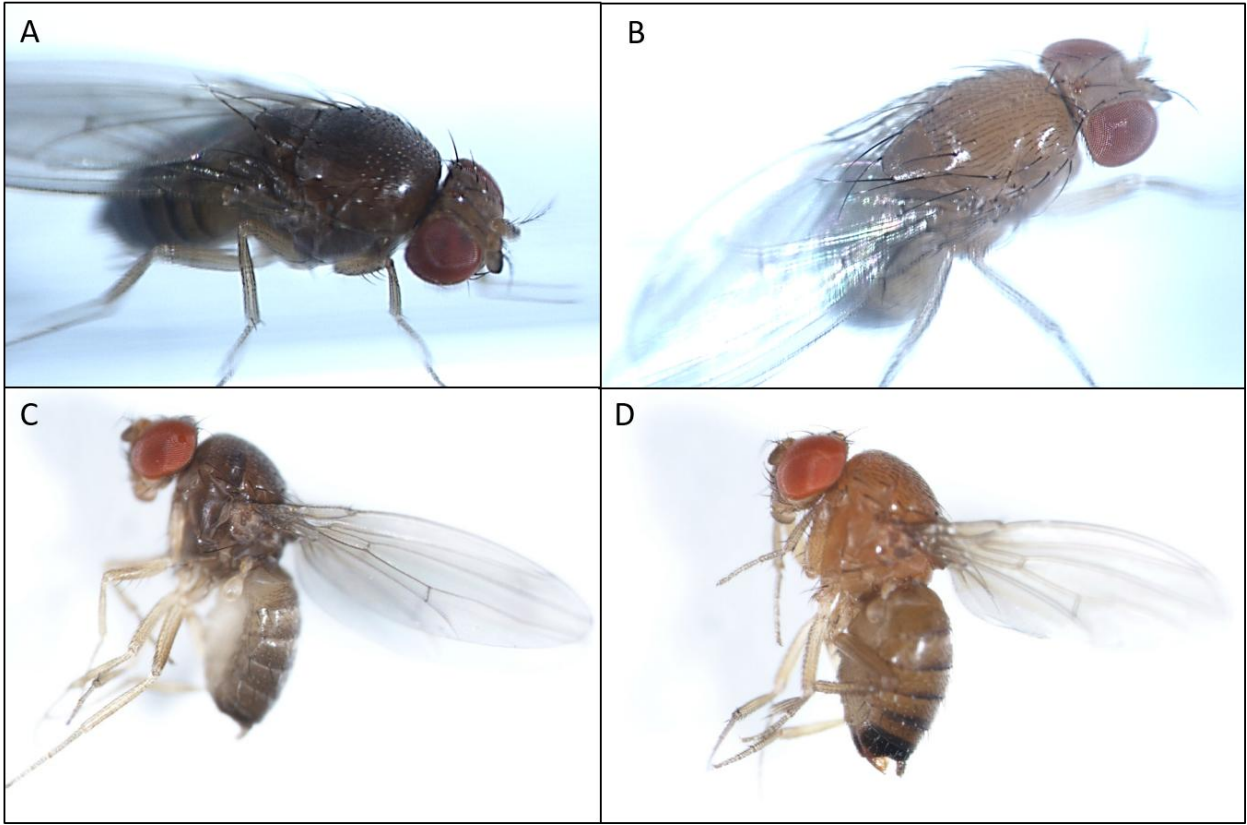


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935 mean±s.e.m proportion of surviving flies from ten vials (8-10 flies/vial). \* indicates a significant  
936 effect of acclimation regime (non-linear mixed effects model details in text).

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937 **Figure 1**

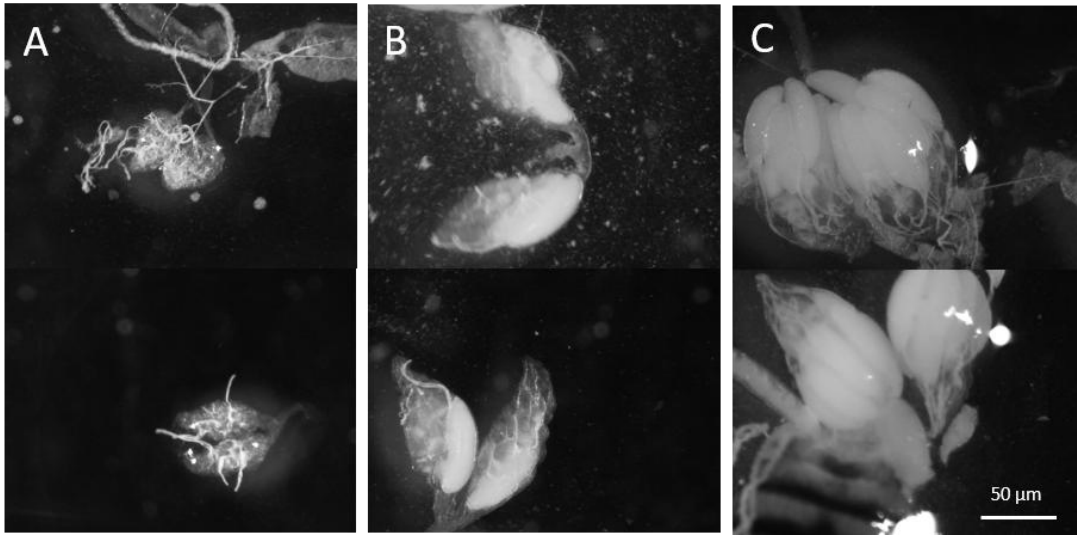


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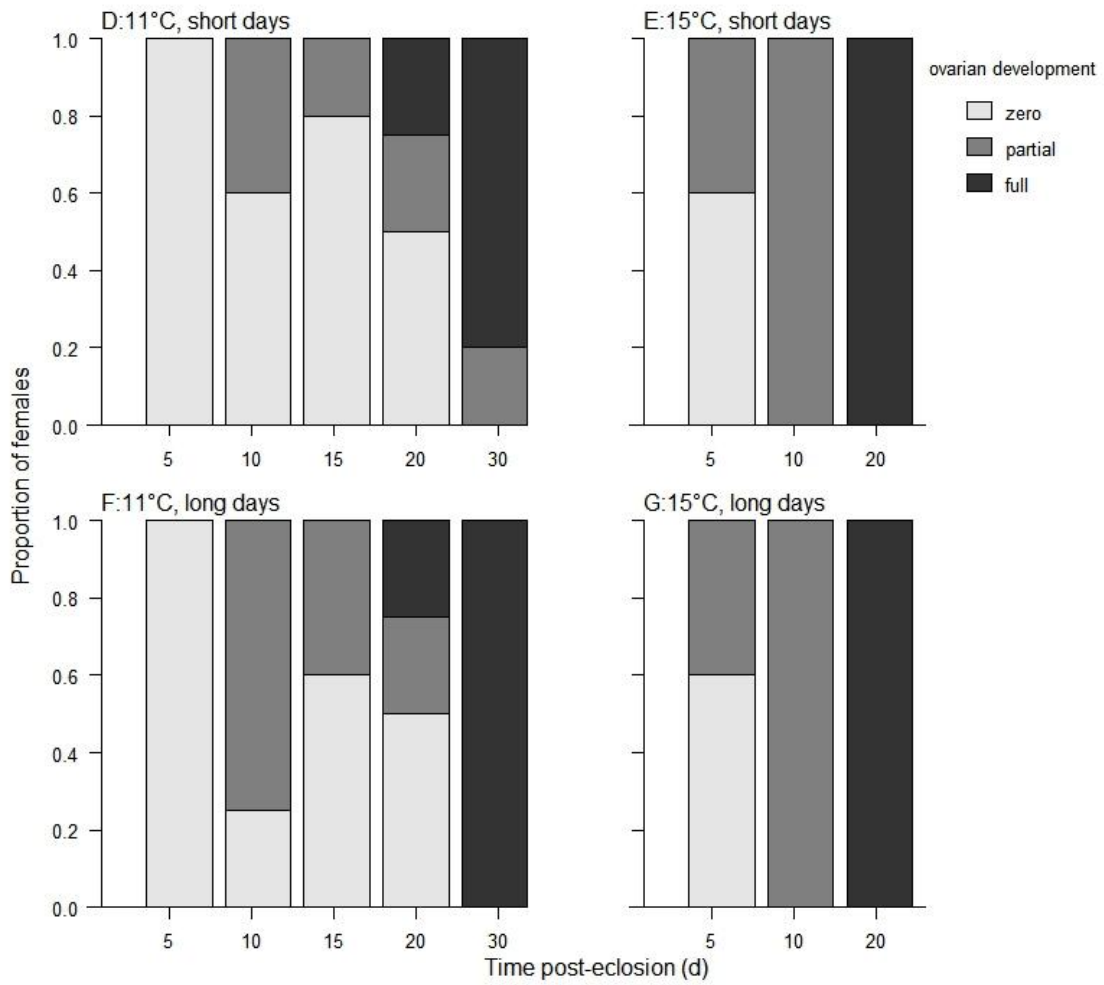
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940 **Figure 2**



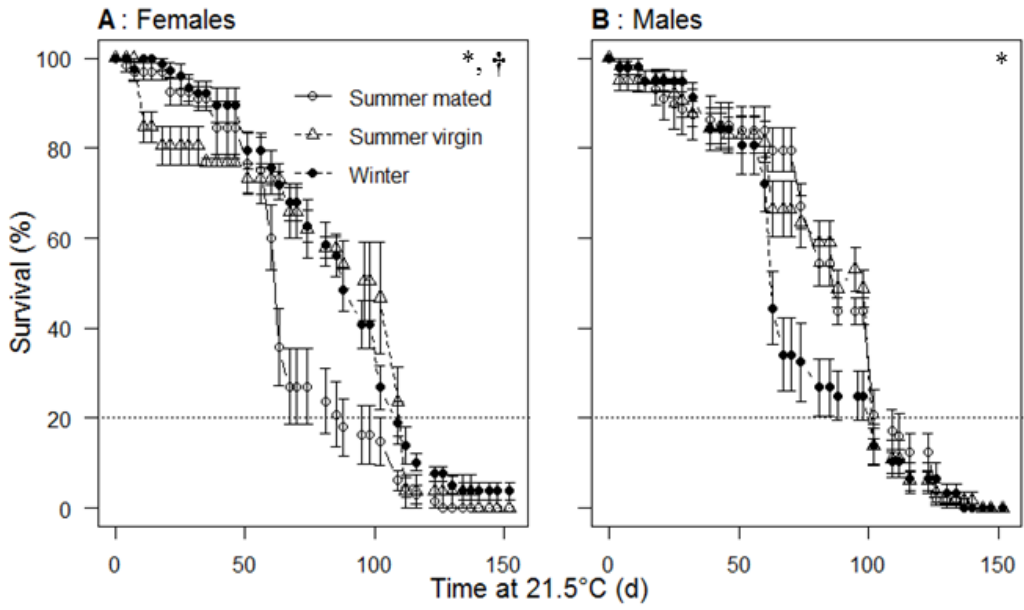
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943 **Figure 3**

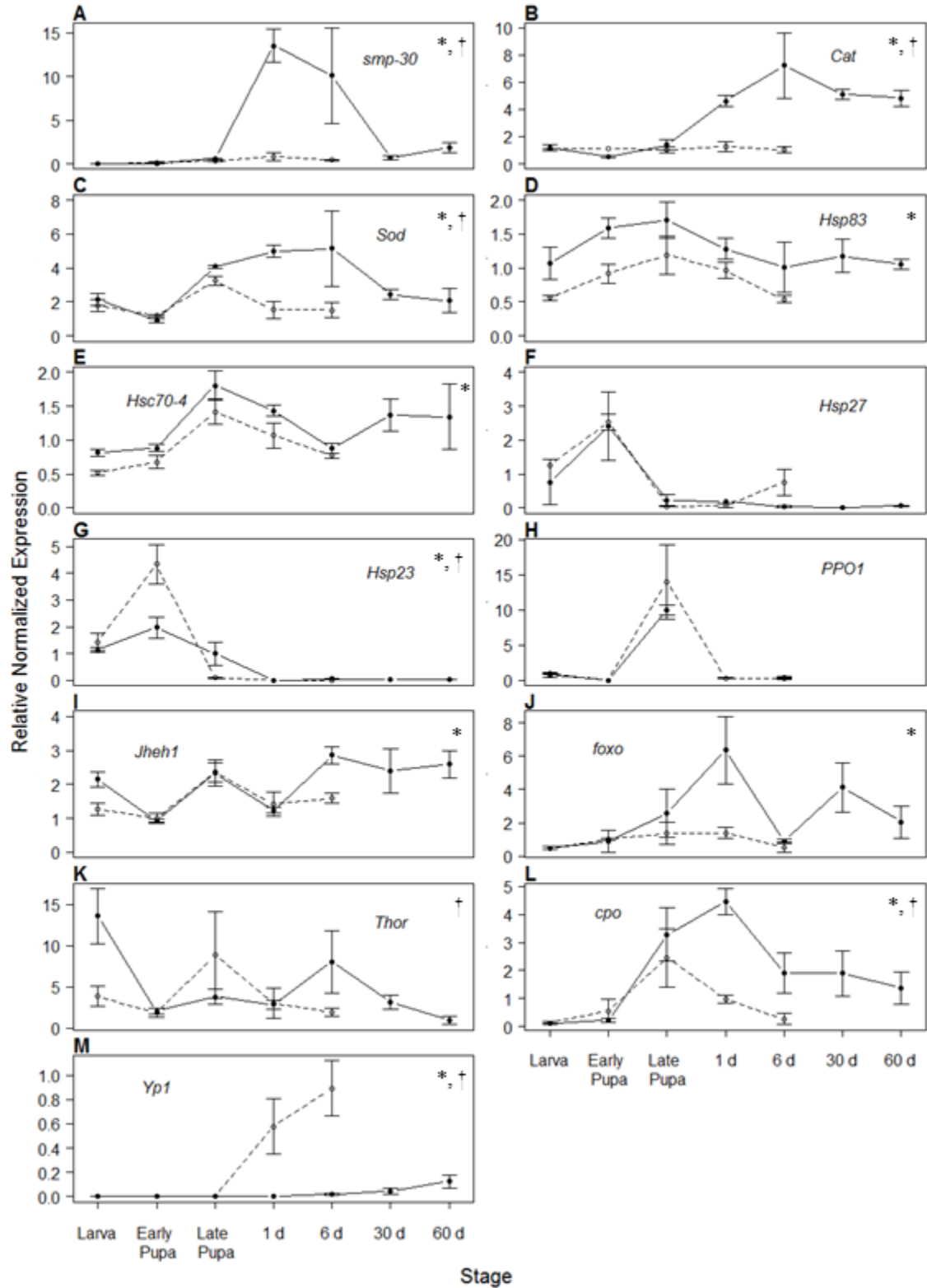


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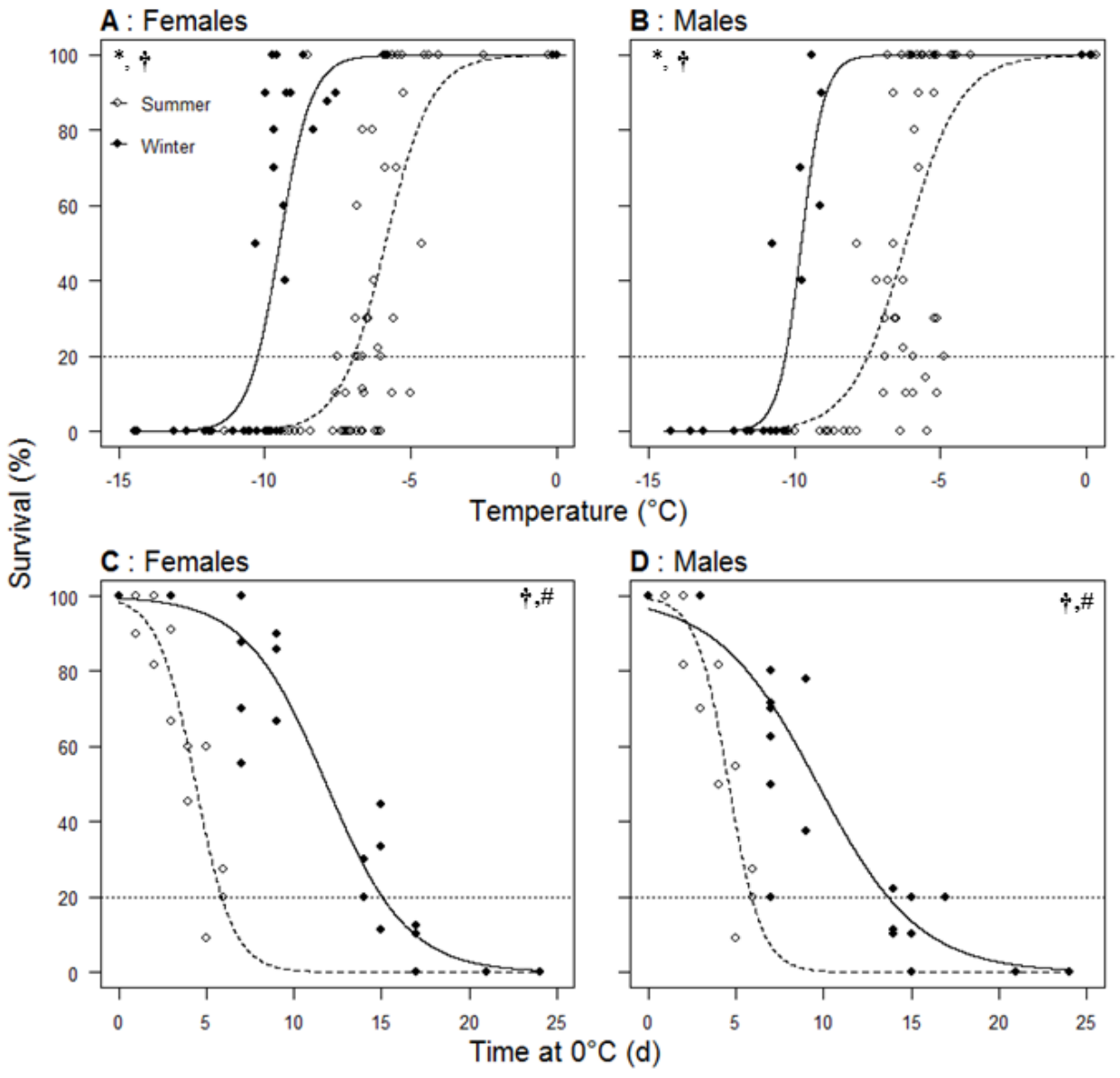
946 **Figure 4**



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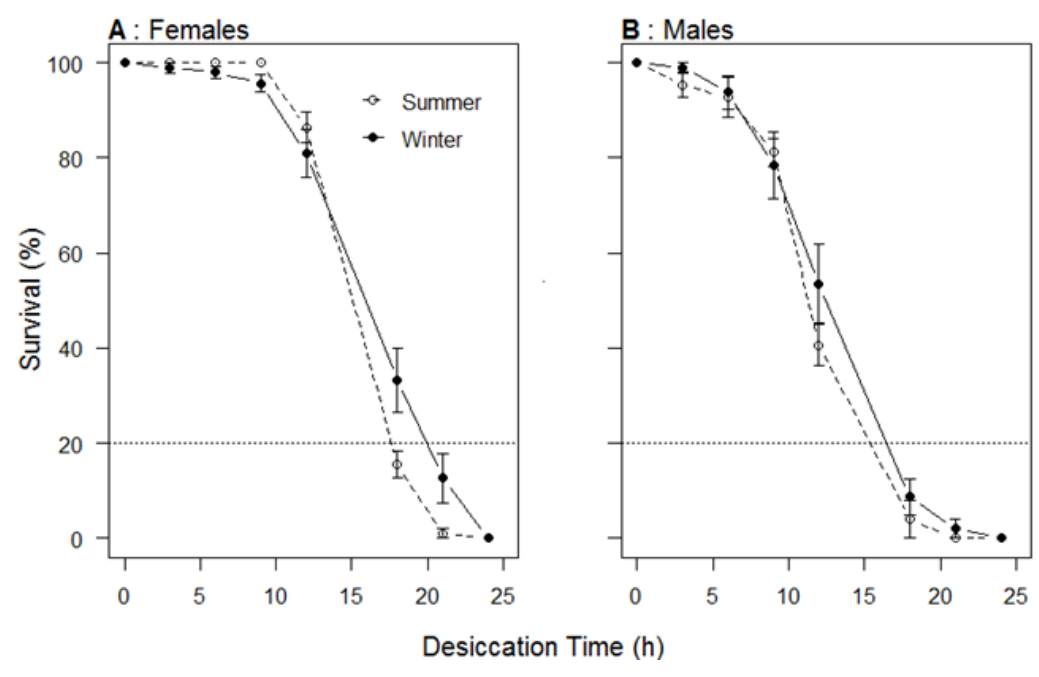
948 **Figure 5**



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953 **Figure 6**

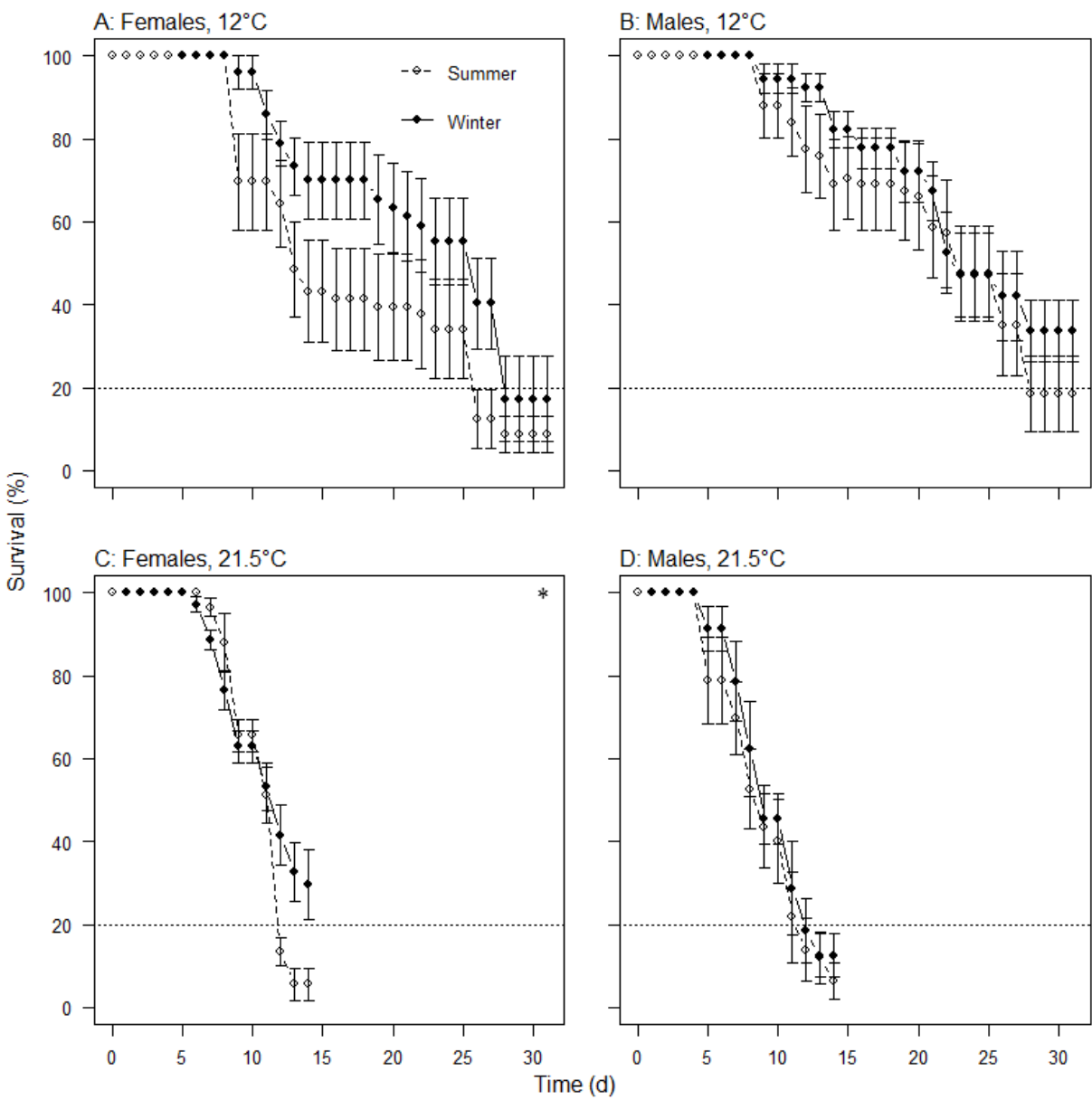


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956 **Figure 7**



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4 **959 Tables**

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8 **960 Table 1. Genes examined via RT-qPCR.** Gene names and functions based on *D. melanogaster*  
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10 **961** (flybase.org). Primer sequences available in supplementary material (Table S1).

<b>Gene</b>	<b>Gene symbol</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<i>Catalase</i>	<i>Cat</i>	response to stress (oxidative)	Faust et al., 2012
<i>couch potato</i>	<i>cpo</i>	diapause regulation	Schmidt et al., 2008
<i>Elongation factor 1<math>\alpha</math>48D</i>	<i>Ef1<math>\alpha</math>48D</i> <sup>1</sup>	translation elongation factor	Lasko, 2000
<i>forkhead box, subgroup O</i>	<i>foxo</i>	transcription factor, diapause regulation	Sim et al., 2015
<i>Heat shock protein cognate 70</i>	<i>Hsc70-4</i>	chaperone binding, diapause termination	Wang and Brock, 2003, Shim and Lee, 2015
<i>Heat shock protein 23</i>	<i>Hsp23</i>	response to stress (hypoxia), cold acclimation	Azad et al., 2009, Qin et al., 2005
<i>Heat shock protein 27</i>	<i>Hsp27</i>	defense response to pathogens	Chen et al., 2010
<i>Heat shock protein 83</i>	<i>Hsp83</i>	response to stress (heat), cold acclimation	Neal et al., 2006, Qin et al., 2005
<i>Juvenile hormone epoxide hydrolase 1</i>	<i>Jheh1</i>	juvenile hormone catabolism	Campbell et al., 1992
<i>Prophenoloxidase 1</i>	<i>PPO1</i>	dopamine metabolism, melanisation	Li et al., 2012, R�met et al., 2002
<i>Senescence marker protein-30</i>	<i>smp-30</i>	calcium ion binding, cold acclimation	Goto, 2000
<i>Superoxide dismutase</i>	<i>Sod</i>	response to stress (oxidative)	Ruan and Wu, 2008
<i>TATA binding protein</i>	<i>Tbp</i> <sup>1</sup>	transcription initiation	Davidson, 2003
<i>Thor</i>	<i>Thor</i>	immune response, response to stress (oxidative), diapause maintenance, lifespan determination	Bernal and Kimbrell, 2000, Tettweiler et al., 2005, Salminen et al., 2015
<i>Yolk protein 1</i>	<i>Yp1</i>	vitellogenesis	FlyBase

49 <sup>1</sup> Housekeeping genes for RT-qPCR (Zhai et al., 2014)

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**Table 2. Longevity, low temperature performance and stress tolerance of adult *D. sukuzii*.** All values are  $\pm$  s.e.m., with *N* in parentheses, indicating the number of flies ( $CT_{min80}$ , SCP, number of dead flies) or the number of groups of 7-10 flies ( $LT_{80-1h}$ ,  $Lt_{80}$ , proportion of flies surviving  $LT_{80-1h}$ ). We combined female and male data for survival at the  $LT_{80-1h}$  because sex had no effect on the RCH response. Groups with the same letter within an experiment are not different from each other (statistical details in text).

	Summer-acclimated		Winter-acclimated	
	Females	Males	Females	Males
<b><math>Lt_{80}</math> (d) at 21.5°C</b>	mated: 84 $\pm$ 4 <sup>a</sup> (7) virgin: 111 $\pm$ 9 <sup>c</sup> (3)	mated: 108 $\pm$ 4 <sup>c</sup> (9) virgin: 106 $\pm$ 5 <sup>c</sup> (7)	109 $\pm$ 4 <sup>c</sup> (8)	92 $\pm$ 5 <sup>b</sup> (6)
<b><math>CT_{min80}</math> (°C)</b>	-0.5 $\pm$ 0.2 <sup>a</sup> (252)	0.4 $\pm$ 0.2 <sup>b</sup> (276)	-5.5 $\pm$ 0.2 <sup>c</sup> (213)	-5.1 $\pm$ 0.3 <sup>c</sup> (141)
<b>SCP (°C)</b>	-17.9 $\pm$ 0.5 <sup>a</sup> (18)	-20.3 $\pm$ 0.4 <sup>b</sup> (20)	-17.3 $\pm$ 0.1 <sup>a</sup> (24)	-17.7 $\pm$ 0.1 <sup>a</sup> (14)
<b>Number of flies dead</b>	unfrozen: 5/5 frozen: 5/5	unfrozen: 5/5 frozen: 5/5	unfrozen: 5/5 frozen: 5/5	unfrozen: 5/5 frozen: 5/5
<b>Cold tolerance strategy</b>	chill-susceptible	chill-susceptible	chill-susceptible	chill-susceptible
<b><math>LT_{80-1h}</math> (°C)</b>	-7.0 $\pm$ 0.1 <sup>a</sup> (60)	-7.5 $\pm$ 0.2 <sup>a</sup> (54)	-10.2 $\pm$ 0.1 <sup>b</sup> (36)	-10.3 $\pm$ 0.1 <sup>b</sup> (21)
<b><math>Lt_{80}</math> (d) at 0°C</b>	5.9 $\pm$ 0.4 <sup>a</sup> (15)	5.9 $\pm$ 0.4 <sup>a</sup> (15)	15.1 $\pm$ 0.6 <sup>b</sup> (30)	13.7 $\pm$ 0.7 <sup>b</sup> (30)
<b>Proportion of flies surviving the <math>LT_{80-1h}</math></b>	no pre-treatment: 0.14 $\pm$ 0.03* (12) RCH treatment: 0.20 $\pm$ 0.04* (12)		no pre-treatment: 0.23 $\pm$ 0.04 (12) RCH treatment: 0.58 $\pm$ 0.06 (6)	
<b><math>Lt_{80}</math> (h) of desiccation</b>	17.2 $\pm$ 0.4 <sup>a</sup> (10)	15.3 $\pm$ 0.4 <sup>b</sup> (10)	19.2 $\pm$ 0.4 <sup>a</sup> (10)	14.3 $\pm$ 0.4 <sup>b</sup> (10)
<b><math>Lt_{80}</math> (d) following fungal infection</b>	21.5°C: 12.0 $\pm$ 0.6 12°C: 24.7 $\pm$ 1.6	21.5°C: 11.2 $\pm$ 0.8 12°C: 30.2 $\pm$ 2.0	21.5°C: 14.1 $\pm$ 1.0 12°C: 30.5 $\pm$ 2.2	21.5°C: 11.8 $\pm$ 1.0 12°C: 32.0 $\pm$ 2.3

\*Values from Jakobs et al. (2015)

968 **Table 3. Two-way ANOVAs of relative transcript abundance for each target gene.**

969 Transcript abundance of each target gene was normalised against housekeeping genes *Eflα48D*  
 970 and *TBP* in summer- and winter-acclimated flies. Bold *P*-values indicate a significant effect of  
 971 acclimation regime, stage, or the acclimation regime × stage interaction on transcript abundance.

Target	acclimation		stage		acclimation × stage	
	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>
<i>Cat</i>	23.861	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	3.840	<b>0.013</b>	4.076	<b>0.017</b>
<i>cpo</i>	9.011	<b>0.007</b>	6.163	<b>&lt;0.01</b>	3.037	<b>0.039</b>
<i>foxo</i>	9.649	<b>0.006</b>	2.837	<b>0.038</b>	2.218	0.106
<i>Hsc70-4</i>	8.636	<b>0.007</b>	5.988	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.190	0.941
<i>Hsp23</i>	19.960	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	23.414	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	7.214	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
<i>Hsp27</i>	1.654	0.219	6.434	<b>0.002</b>	0.289	0.880
<i>Hsp83</i>	13.487	<b>0.001</b>	2.984	<b>0.027</b>	0.198	0.937
<i>Jheh1</i>	9.321	<b>0.005</b>	5.850	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	2.330	0.085
<i>PPO1</i>	0.053	0.823	7.166	<b>0.007</b>	0.259	0.853
<i>smp-30</i>	10.678	<b>0.004</b>	5.668	<b>0.001</b>	5.5416	<b>0.003</b>
<i>Sod</i>	8.612	<b>0.007</b>	3.720	<b>0.009</b>	3.112	<b>0.034</b>
<i>Thor</i>	0.584	0.452	2.745	<b>0.035</b>	3.299	<b>0.027</b>
<i>Yp1</i>	21.806	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	6.808	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	8.847	<b>&lt;0.001</b>

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