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1 **Vulnerability of juvenile hermit crabs to reduced seawater pH and shading**

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23

1 Abstract

2

3 Multiple simultaneous stressors induced by anthropogenic activities may amplify their
4 impacts on marine organisms. The effects of ocean acidification, in combination with
5 other anthropogenic impacts (apart from temperature) are poorly understood, especially
6 in coastal regions. In these areas, shading caused by infrastructure development, such as
7 harbor construction, may potentially interact with CO₂-induced pH reduction and affect
8 invertebrate populations. Here, we evaluated the effects of reduced pH (7.6) and
9 shading (24h in darkness) on mortality, growth, calcification and displacement behavior
10 to live predator (danger signal) and dead gastropod (resource availability signal) odors
11 using juveniles of the hermit crab *Pagurus criniticornis* collected in Araçá Bay (São
12 Paulo state, Southeastern Brazil). After a 98 day experimental period, both stressors had
13 a significant interaction effect on mortality, and an additive effect on total growth. No
14 difference in calcification was recorded among treatments, indicating that individuals
15 were able to maintain calcification under reduced pH conditions. When exposed to odor
16 of live predators, crab responses were only affected by shading. However, an interactive
17 effect between both stressors was observed in response to gastropod odor, leading to
18 reduced displacement behavior. This study shows how local disturbance impacts may
19 enhance the effects of global environmental change on intertidal crustacean populations.

20

21 Keywords: Effects, multiple stressors, environmental changes, ocean acidification,
22 photoperiod, *Pagurus criniticornis*.

23

24 1. Introduction

25

26 Coastal ecosystems are exposed to multiple stressors, of both natural (Elliot and
27 Quintino, 2007; Gamito, 2006) and anthropogenic origin (Dolbeth et al., 2011; Halpern
28 et al., 2007; O’Gorman et al., 2012). Within these ecosystems there is growing evidence
29 that the combined effects of multiple stressors may impact at both the organismal
30 (Blake et al., 2010; Przeslawski et al., 2005; Walther et al., 2010) and community level
31 (Shears and Ross, 2010). However, the combined effects of stressors can vary
32 depending on local environmental conditions (Range et al., 2014) and the biology of the
33 study species (Long et al., 2013). In addition, the complexity of these interactions can

1 potentially amplify the impacts expected from a single stressor (Cole et al., 2016;
2 Queirós et al., 2015).

3 The effects of multiple stressors in relation to scenarios of global environmental
4 change have been widely investigated over the past few decades across a range of
5 biomes (e.g. Sala et al., 2000; Schweiger et al., 2010; Tanikawa et al., 2017). Amongst
6 the environmental change stressors acting on marine ecosystems, elevated $p\text{CO}_2$ is one
7 of the major threats, as the global oceans have absorbed about one-third of the
8 anthropogenic carbon dioxide (CO_2) released in atmosphere over the last 200 years
9 (Sabine et al., 2004). This increase in oceanic $p\text{CO}_2$ has already led to a reduction of 0.1
10 unit from the pre-industrial pH average of about 8.2 (Feely et al., 2009; Orr et al., 2005)
11 and climate models indicate that a further decline of 0.3-0.5 pH units through increased
12 $p\text{CO}_2$ is expected by 2100 (Caldeira and Wicket, 2005). Furthermore, significant
13 impacts on marine organisms have already been noted (e.g., Bressan et al., 2014;
14 Clements and Darrow, 2018; Hendriks et al., 2010; Kroeker et al., 2010; Wang et al.,
15 2017). In this context, calcifying organisms generally demonstrate vulnerability in
16 response to changes in seawater chemistry due to potential impairments in the
17 calcification process and maintenance of their calcified structures (Hoffmann et al.,
18 2010; Iguchi et al., 2012; Zhao et al., 2017).

19 However, OA may not exclusively be a consequence of absorption of increasing
20 atmospheric CO_2 levels in all marine ecosystems (Provoost et al., 2010). For example,
21 in some coastal regions eutrophication can reduce pH as a result of bacterial degradation
22 of organic matter decreasing oxygen concentration and increasing $p\text{CO}_2$ resulting in
23 acidification (Cai et al., 2011; Melzner, 2013; Wallace et al., 2014). Thus, some coastal
24 waters may be particularly vulnerable to seawater acidification.

25 The combined impacts of increased $p\text{CO}_2$ and warming on marine invertebrates
26 have been well studied in recent years (e.g., Araújo et al., 2018; Lee et al., 2017; Ong et
27 al., 2017). However, little is known about the effects induced by reduced seawater pH in
28 combination with other local anthropogenic stressors such as light availability (Vogel et
29 al., 2015). In some shallow water habitats, increased $p\text{CO}_2$ (through eutrophication
30 and/or absorption of atmospheric CO_2) and the consequent reduction in seawater pH
31 may occur simultaneously with shading due to the presence of harbors, piers, docks
32 (Roca et al., 2014; Shaffer, 1999), bridges (Struck et al., 2004) or aquaculture systems,
33 such as oyster culture (Bulmer et al., 2012; Forrest et al., 2009). Disturbances in light

1 availability may drastically influence community structure in coastal zones (Pardal-
2 Souza et al., 2017) with changing irradiance affecting both photosynthetic organisms
3 (Benham et al., 2016) and benthic invertebrates (Glasby 1999; Struck et al., 2004).

4 Within coastal ecosystems, crustaceans provide several ecological and economic
5 services (LeBlanc, 2007) playing an important role in the structure of food webs (Laidre
6 and Greggor, 2015; Shaffer et al., 1995) and energy flux (Kristensen, 2008; Robertson,
7 1986). Therefore, the impacts of environmental stressors on crustaceans have been well
8 studied (e.g., hypoxia, Peruzza et al., 2018; hypercapnia, Borges et al., 2018; salinity
9 fluctuations, Joseph and Philip, 2007; and pollutants, Vogt et al., 2018) and sublethal
10 effects are known to cause physiological disruption (LeBlanc, 2007; Moullac and
11 Haffner, 2000), which thereby induce impairments in behavioral performance (Felten et
12 al., 2008; Hebel et al., 1997; Tuomainen and Candolin, 2010).

13 The interactions among multiple stressors associated with seawater pH reduction
14 resulting from elevated $p\text{CO}_2$ are still poorly understood in crustaceans (Whiteley,
15 2011) with the existing research focusing on potential synergies with temperature
16 (Dissanayake and Ishimatsu, 2011) and salinity changes (Madeira et al., 2014). Since
17 environmental changes associated increased $p\text{CO}_2$ (pH reduction) and shading are both
18 known to affect coastal benthic biota (e.g., Lorda and Lafferty, 2010; Glaspie et al.,
19 2017), it is likely that in combination these stressors will cause significant and
20 interactive effects on different aspects of performance of benthic organisms in coastal
21 marine habitats, which could include changes to patterns of mortality, growth,
22 calcification and changes in behavioral responses.

23 In this context, hermit crabs may be considered as good biological models to
24 investigate pH-induced behavioral impairment through changes to their behaviors
25 associated with the exploration and selection of new shells and with predator avoidance
26 (Briffa et al., 2008; Gorman et al., 2018). These behavior patterns occur as responses to
27 environmental stimuli (e.g., chemical or visual cues), which determine the decision-
28 making after the perception of dead gastropods or shells (Chiussi et al., 2001; Díaz et
29 al., 1994; Gherardi and Atema, 2005) or predators (Kuhlmann, 1992; Rittschof and
30 Hazlett, 1997). Such behavioral patterns are sensitive to changes in the physical
31 environment associated to elevated $p\text{CO}_2$ (de la Haye et al., 2011, 2012; Kim et al.,
32 2016) and light availability (Díaz et al., 1994, 1995 a, 1995b) and decision-making may
33 be drastically affected thereby compromising individual survival and population
34 maintenance (Briffa et al., 2012).

1 Here, the hermit crab *Pagurus criniticornis* (Dana, 1852) was used as a
2 biological model to investigate the potential combined effects of two stressors, changes
3 in pH levels and light availability, on populations of crustaceans in coastal regions. This
4 species was chosen as model due to the easy sampling and maintenance in controlled
5 experiments (Turra and Leite, 2003) and its potential to demonstrate changes in
6 behavior patterns following environmental disturbance (Turra and Gorman, 2014). *P.*
7 *criniticornis* inhabits intertidal and subtidal areas of tropical environments (Melo, 1999)
8 with juveniles commonly occupying shells of the gastropod *Olivella minuta* (Link,
9 1807), while adults commonly occupy *Cerithium atratum* (Born, 1778) shells (Leite et
10 al., 1998; Turra and Leite, 2003). This species is abundant in the muddy substrate of
11 Araçá Bay (Northern coast of São Paulo State, SE Brazil), an area with potential future
12 shading impacts, due to the expansion project of the adjacent Port of São Sebastião. The
13 initial port expansion proposal would have meant the construction of a suspended
14 concrete slab, which would cover 75% of Araçá Bay area (PIPC, 2011). Despite the
15 changes in the project during the environmental licensing phase, which reduced the
16 covered area to 34% of the bay (CDSS, 2013), the license was suspended due to the
17 lack of studies related to cumulative or synergistic effects of the harbor expansion,
18 combined with the impacts of other coastal enterprises. Thus, the situation in Araçá Bay
19 may be used as an example to evaluate how impacts derived from a continuous,
20 increasing environmental pressure (i.e., reduced seawater pH), on top of which
21 infrastructure-derived disturbances, may potentially exert stronger interaction effects.

22 The aim of this study was to investigate the combined effects of both reduced
23 seawater pH through increased $p\text{CO}_2$ and shading on ecological and physiological
24 aspects of juveniles of the hermit crab *P. criniticornis*. For this, we tested the null
25 hypothesis that mortality, total growth, calcification and behavioral responses to live
26 predator (danger signal) and dead gastropod (a signal of the availability of empty shells)
27 odors would not vary between organisms in the medium-term (98 days) reared under
28 different treatments from the combination of two different pH and two photoperiod
29 levels

30

31 2. Methods

32

33 2.1 Experimental design

1 A fully factorial design experiment was adopted, using two levels of pH
2 (control: pH = 8.1 and reduced: pH = 7.6) and photoperiod (control: 12:12h and
3 darkness: 0:24h). The pH of the “reduced” treatment was derived from predictions of a
4 0.5 pH unit decrease in seawater by 2100 (Caldeira and Wicket, 2005), while the
5 “shading” treatment light regime was selected as representative of the situation of total
6 darkness expected for areas of the Araçá Bay under the suspended concrete slab as a
7 result of the proposed São Sebastião port expansion project.

8 Separate recirculating water systems using artificial seawater (Instant Ocean,
9 Blacksburg, USA) were used for each pH condition and reduced pH was maintained by
10 adding CO₂ through a solenoid valve connected to a pH controller system (Aqua Medic,
11 Germany; adapted from Suckling et al. 2014; Widdicombe and Needham, 2007). Each
12 system, with a total water volume around 239 L, consisted of a seawater reservoir
13 (~100 L), a tank for biological filtration (~63 L) and eight experimental tanks used to
14 house hermit crabs exposed to 12:12h and 0:24h conditions (~9.5 L each). Light was
15 excluded from tanks in the shaded treatment by covering the walls and lids with black
16 plastic adhesive sheet. To reduce tank effects, aquaria corresponding to the different
17 photoperiod conditions were randomly placed within the two pH systems. The two
18 recirculating systems did not differ in temperature (Student's *T test*: $t_{162}=0.83$, $p=0.41$)
19 and salinity ($t_{81}=0.45$, $p=0.65$), with overall average values of 25.6°C and 31.9 psu
20 respectively (Table 1). The average pH values for the control and reduced pH treatments
21 were 7.63 and 8.08 (Table 1), which hereafter are referred to as 7.6 and 8.1 respectively.
22 Temperature and salinity were maintained at target levels (25–26°C and 32 psu
23 respectively) using aquarium heaters (H-606, Hopar, Guangdong, China) and a system
24 consisting of a water level sensor connected to a tank of distilled water was used to
25 prevent salinity changes caused by evaporation. Each recirculating system was
26 connected to a tank containing natural rocky substrate, nitrifying bacteria colony (ATM
27 Colony Marine, Las Vegas, USA) and the algae *Chaetomorpha sp.* for biological
28 filtration. Ammonia, nitrite and nitrate concentrations were measured each month by
29 colorimetric tests (Red Sea kits, Houston, USA) (Table 1). Tanks were cleaned every
30 week by siphoning feces and remaining food, while water volume was replaced by the
31 water level sensor system and salinity was manually corrected by adding extra salt. The
32 experiment was conducted for 98 days.

33

Table 1: Average values (Mean±SE) and Confidence Interval (CI 95%) for the controlled abiotic parameters (pH, salinity and temperature) during the 98 day exposure of juvenile *Pagurus criniticornis* to different pH and photoperiod treatment conditions.

	Reduced pH		Control pH	
	Mean±SE	CI 95%	Mean±SE	CI 95%
pH	7.63±0.007	7.61 – 7.64	8.06±0.004	8.05 – 8.07
Salinity (psu)	32.05±0.11	31.83 – 32.26	31.74±0.13	31.5 – 31.99
T°C	25.67±0.18	25.31 – 26.02	25.45±0.19	25.07 – 25.83
Ammonia (ppm)	<0.02	nd	0	nd
Nitrate (ppm)	<10	nd	<10	nd
Nitrite (ppm)	<0.5	nd	<0.5	nd

nd – below detection level

2.2 Maintenance and sampling of hermit crabs

Juveniles of the hermit crab *P. criniticornis* were collected by hand from the intertidal zone, during the low tide period in Araçá Bay (Figure 1) in October 2015. Only individuals inhabiting shells of the gastropod *Olivella minuta* were collected, in order to control the individuals' initial size and previous experience of shell occupancy, since juveniles are most commonly found inhabiting shells of this species.

After three weeks of acclimatization, crabs were individually allocated to 80 mL plastic containers to prevent agonistic interactions and facilitate the collection of exuviae. Containers were labeled and perforated to allow water exchange and a total of 48 crabs were used in each treatment group, divided between four tanks (n=12 per tank).

At the beginning of the experiment, three small shells of varied sizes of *C. atratum* were provided to the crabs, to avoid growth limitation. After the first molt from the *C. atratum* shell initially selected, each hermit crab was offered three larger *C. atratum* shells of different sizes that were left in the plastic container until the end of the experiment. Crabs were fed with commercial pellet food specific for crustaceans (two pellets per individual, three times per week; JBL, NovoPrawn, Germany). Molts and dead individuals were collected daily and stored in 70% ethanol for subsequent measurements of shield length and elemental analysis (see below).

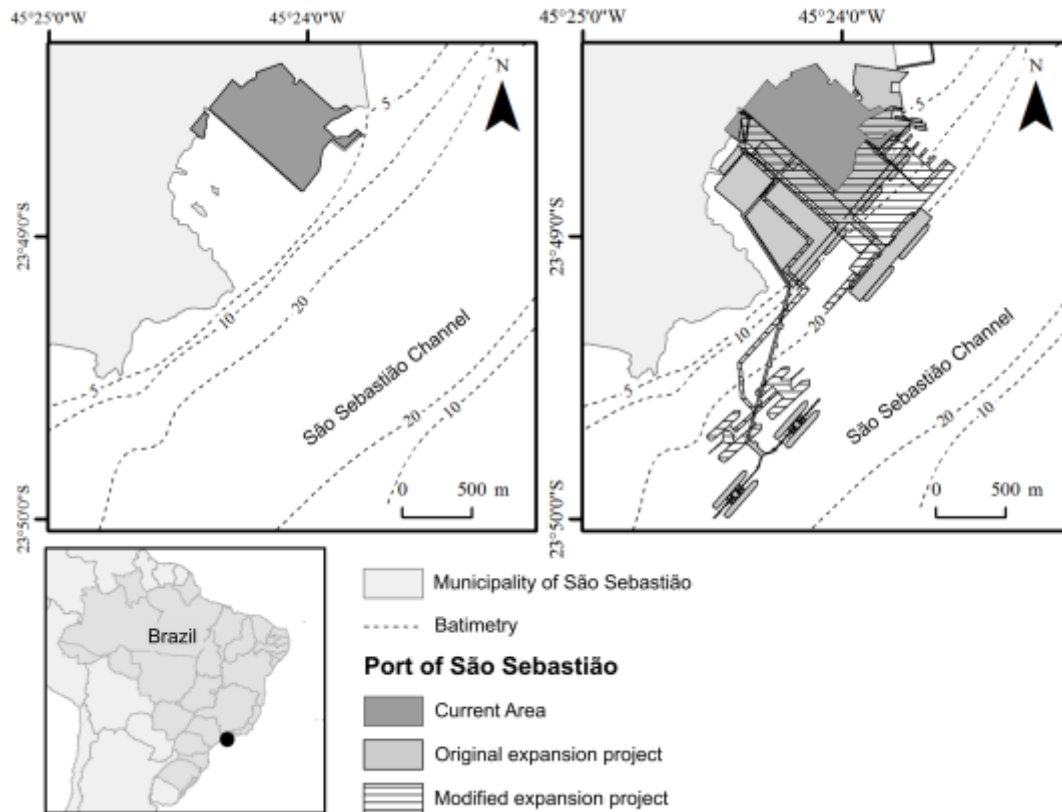


Figure 1: Araçá Bay location within the municipality of São Sebastião (Northern coast of São Paulo State, Brazil). The emphasized infrastructures correspond to the present-day harbor area, the initial project with 75% of expansion area and the current modified project with 34% of expansion area proposed.

2.3 Mortality

Average cumulative mortality was analyzed as a function of time (days), between treatment conditions, using a two-way Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA), considering time as covariate.

2.4 Growth

Cephalothorax shield length (mm) from the first molt and for each live crab at the end of the experiment was measured, using *ImageJ* software. Since no difference in initial shield size was recorded among treatments (One-way ANOVA: $F_{3,64}=2.07$; $DF=3$; $P=0.11$), total growth was calculated by the difference between the final and initial shield length. Damaged carapaces were excluded from this analysis ($n=16$), and only living individuals at the end of the experiment period were considered.

All the surviving individuals from 7.6/0:24h treatment were used for the growth analysis ($n=17$) and in order to balance the sample sizes for statistical analysis, 17

1 hermit crabs were randomly selected from the other three treatments. Data were tested
2 for normality (Shapiro-Wilk test) and homogeneity of variances (Cochran's test) and
3 differences in total growth were analyzed by two-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA,
4 pH x photoperiod), followed by Tukey's HSD test.

5

6 2.5 Calcification

7 The last molt of the crabs was used to compare the variation in calcification among
8 experimental conditions (n=6 per treatment). Molt samples were carbon sputter-coated
9 (Balzers, BAL-TEC SCD 050, Germany), and subsequently analyzed by scanning
10 electron microscopy with energy dispersive X-ray spectrometry (SEM-EDS; FEI,
11 Inspect F50/EDAX, Netherlands). SEM-EDS was used to estimate calcium and
12 magnesium content by weight percentage (%w) using a semi-quantitative approach,
13 similarly to Taylor et al. (2015). The accelerating voltage was 20 kV, the working
14 distance 10 mm and the tilt angle 0°. Monte Carlo modeling of the maximum range of
15 X-ray penetration depth in the molt resulted in a droplet 3.0 μm wide and 1.8 μm in
16 height.

17 For the above mentioned %wCa and %wMg analyses, both chelipeds of each
18 crab were used due to their crucial role in hermit crab behavior associated with feeding
19 (Schembri, 1982), shell fighting (Briffa and Dallaway, 2007), burying (Rebach, 1974),
20 reproduction (Goshima et al., 1998; Turra, 2005) and investigation in response to
21 chemical stimuli (Rittschof et al., 1992). Moreover, chelae are rigid structures, usually
22 with a high calcium concentration due to its function (Greenaway, 1985), and are more
23 likely to remain intact after molting.

24 Four different areas (300x400 μm) were selected, one each from the carpus and
25 propodus segments of both chelipeds. Analyzing the %wCa and %wMg from the
26 targeted areas, calcification of the cheliped segments was compared among treatments.
27 Cheliped morphology prevents exact replication of measurements in each segment,
28 since its structure is not flat, and the precision of quantification depends on the angle in
29 which the X-rays of the EDS system are projected onto the sample. Thus, the %wCa
30 and %wMg data from the four measured areas were arcsine-square-root transformed
31 and a repeated measures ANOVA was performed (pH x photoperiod) to determine
32 whether calcification differed among treatment conditions.

33

1 2.6 Behavioral responses

2 At the end of the experiment, crabs were randomly selected to evaluate the
3 behavioral responses to odor stimuli, which mimicked the presence of either live
4 predators (n=19) or dead gastropods (n=18).

5 The blue crab *Callinectes danae* Smith, 1869 was used to provide the predator
6 odor (danger signal) in this experiment, as it is a natural predator of *P. criniticornis* in
7 Araçá Bay (Turra et al., 2005). Three specimens of *C. danae* were kept in 10 L of
8 seawater for two hours, after which a 1 mL aliquot of that water was used as odor cue
9 for each hermit crab. For dead gastropod assays, 30 specimens of *C. atratum* were
10 frozen, macerated and mixed with 1 L of seawater and 1 mL from the supernatant was
11 used as odor cue for each hermit crab assay. The dead gastropod odor was used to
12 indicate the possibility of resource availability (i.e., new shells for exchange).

13 The behavioral odor response assessment was adapted from Hazlett (1996) and
14 Rittschof and Hazlett (1997), using each individual's displacement as the response
15 parameter to the cues. Prior to odor exposure, experimental crabs were kept without
16 access to food for 48 hours. In each assay, hermit crabs were held in an aquarium filled
17 with 500 mL of seawater from the appropriate treatment condition, with a 1x1 cm grid
18 drawn on the bottom. Both odor experiments were run in the dark, using red light to
19 avoid any influence of (white) light on crabs' behavior responses (Hazlett, 1966; Turra
20 and Denadai, 2003). After cue insertion, the displacement of each crab was filmed for 3
21 minutes and then subsequently analyzed in *Kinovea* software, by counting of lines
22 crossed.

23 Differences in displacement were analyzed by two-way ANOVA, followed by
24 Tukey's HSD test, as above for growth and calcification. Displacement data were
25 $\log(x+1)$ -transformed, due to the heterogeneity of variances and non-normal
26 distribution. In addition, responses of all crabs experiencing both odor experiments were
27 used to compare behavioral patterns between the environmental conditions using linear
28 correlation with non-transformed data.

29

30 3. Results

31

32 3.1 Mortality

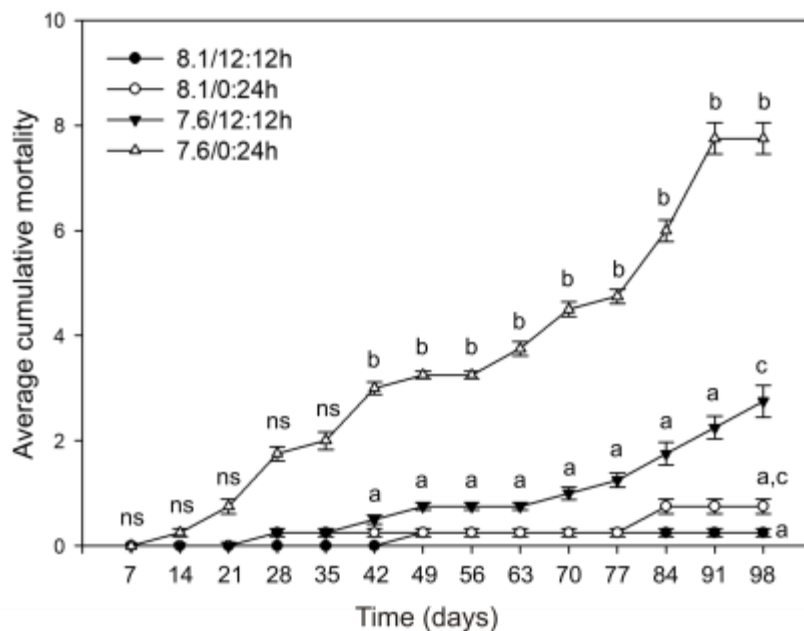
33

1 Mortality increased over time and was influenced by pH, resulting in a higher
 2 general mortality for pH 7.6 treatments compared to 8.1 treatments (Table 2; Figure 2).
 3 The effect of reduced pH over time was demonstrated by the progressively increasing
 4 mortality in the low-pH treatment (7.6/12:12h), becoming significantly different from
 5 the control in the fourteenth week (>8.1/12:12h, Figure 2). Dead individuals in this
 6 treatment (7.6/12:12h) represented 23.9% of the total mortalities during the experiment.
 7 Photoperiod alone did not affect mortality, with no difference observed between shaded
 8 (8.1/0:24h) and control treatments, during the experimental period. Both treatments
 9 represented 6.5% (8.1/0:24h) and 2.2% (8.1/12:12h) of total deaths, respectively.

10 Nevertheless, photoperiod may present an additional effect to acidification
 11 condition over time, as demonstrated by the significant interaction observed between
 12 the three factors (pH*photoperiod*time) (Table 2). This effect resulted in a higher
 13 mortality of hermit crabs being observed in the combined acidified/darkness treatment
 14 (7.6/0:24h; Table 3), 56 days earlier compared to the other treatments (Figure 2). Of all
 15 individual hermit crabs that died during the experiment, 67% were kept in the combined
 16 acidified/darkness treatment (7.6/0:24h), thus providing evidence for synergistic effects.
 17 At the end of the experiment, a total of 46 dead individuals (i.e. 24%) were recorded.

18
 19 Table 2: Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA) of the average cumulative mortality of juvenile *Pagurus*
 20 *criniticornis* reared under different conditions of pH (8.1 and 7.6) and photoperiod (12:12h e 0:24h),
 21 using time (98 days), as covariate.
 22

	<i>DF</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>
<i>Intercept</i>	1	7.86	13.17	<0.001
pH	1	5.92	9.92	<0.001
Photoperiod	1	0.34	0.57	0.45
Time	1	165.86	277.99	<0.001
pH*Photoperiod	1	0.36	0.61	0.44
Photoperiod*Time	1	39.25	65.79	<0.001
pH*Time	1	112.18	188.01	<0.001
pH* Photoperiod*Time	1	31.02	51.98	<0.001
Error	216	0.60		



1
2 Figure 2: Mortality of juvenile *Pagurus criniticornis*, expressed by the average cumulative mortality
3 (Mean±SE) during 98 days of exposure, to different treatments of pH (8.1 and 7.6) and photoperiod
4 (12:12h and 0:24h). Different letters represent significant differences by Tukey test among treatments at
5 each time interval (7 days); ns= not significant.

6
7 Table 3: Summary data of sample sizes, crab size (Mean±SE), mortality and carapace mineral content
8 for the different conditions of pH (8.1 and 7.6) and photoperiod (12:12h and 0:24h). N_0 = initial sample
9 size; N_t = final sample size; $CTSL_0$ = initial cephalothorax shield length (mm); $CTSL_t$ = final
10 cephalothorax shield length (mm); wCa% = weight of calcium (%) and wMg% = weight of magnesium
11 (%).

	8.1/12:12	8.1/0:24h	7.6/12:12	7.6/0:24
N_0	48	48	48	48
$CTSL_0$	2.02±0.04	2.07±0.05	2.13±0.03	1.97±0.05
N_t	47	45	37	17
$CTSL_t$	2.69±0.07	2.61±0.09	2.65±0.05	2.34±0.09
% Mortality	2.08	6.25	22.92	64.58
wCa %	25.96	25.91	27.32	27.72
wMg %	2.00	2.03	2.31	2.09

13 14 3.2 Growth

15
16 Initial and final cephalothorax shield lengths are presented in Table 3.
17 Photoperiod and pH affected growth (Table 4), indicating a general pattern of lower
18 growth rates observed in individuals exposed to reduced pH compared to control pH
19 (i.e., total growth 8.1>7.6) and for individuals exposed to darkness compared to the
20 12:12h control photoperiod. Therefore, crabs reared at pH 8.1 had an average 27%
21 larger shield length, than those kept under reduced pH 7.6 conditions. Similarly,

1 individuals from control photoperiod treatments showed an >24% higher growth,
 2 compared to those exposed to 24h of darkness.

3 The combined stressor treatment (7.6/0:24h) demonstrated the lowest growth:
 4 46% slower than the control treatment (pH 8.1/12:12h; Figure 3). Meanwhile, single-
 5 stressor treatments showed intermediate (and similar) growth, with shield lengths 22%
 6 (7.6/12:12h) and 19% (8.1/0:24h) smaller than the control crabs (Figure 3). Thus,
 7 despite the influence of these conditions on growth, the non-interaction between them
 8 indicates the additive effect of both stressors (Table 4).

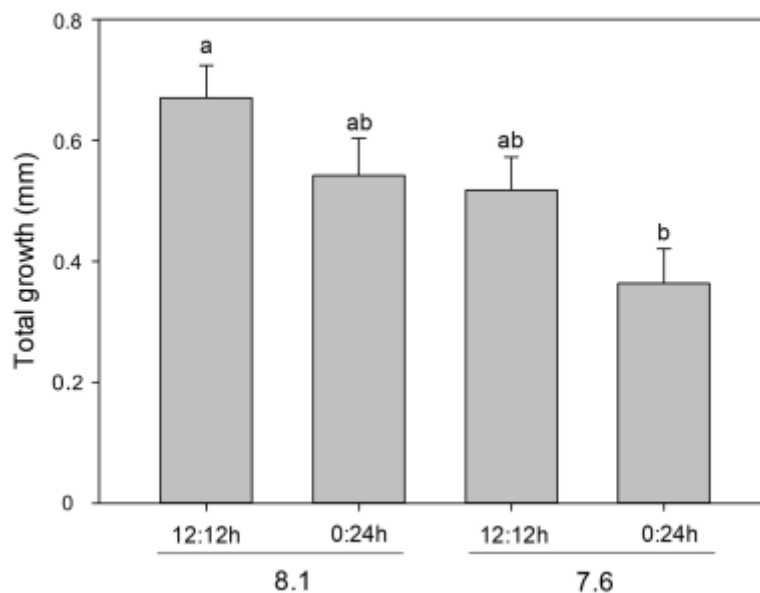
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10 Table 4: Two-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of total growth of juvenile *Pagurus criniticornis*
 11 reared under different treatments of pH (8.1 and 7.6) and photoperiod (12:12h and 0:24h) following a 98
 12 day exposure period (n=17 per treatment).
 13

	<i>DF</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>
<i>Intercept</i>	1	18.63	338.9	<0.001
pH	1	0.46	8.43	0.01
Photoperiod	1	0.34	6.16	0.02
pH*Photoperiod	1	0	0.05	0.82
Error	64	0.05		

14

15



16

17 Figure 3: Total growth (Mean+SE) of juvenile *Pagurus criniticornis* (n=17) maintained under different
 18 treatments of pH (8.1 and 7.6) and photoperiod (12:12h and 0:24h) during 98 days of exposure. Different
 19 letters represent the significant difference among treatments by Tukey test.

20

21 3.3 Calcification

1
2 Crab carapaces presented an overall average mineral content of 26.7% wCa and 2.1%
3 wMg respectively at the end of the experiment (Table 3). Although calcium and
4 magnesium %w varied between the four measured areas of the chelipeds, the average
5 %w of these minerals were similar between the experimental conditions with no effect
6 of pH or photoperiod on cheliped calcification during the experiment (Table 5).

7
8 Table 5: Repeated-measures Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of calcium and magnesium %w, measured
9 in four measured areas of the chelipeds, for juvenile *Pagurus criniticornis* reared under different
10 treatments of pH (8.1 and 7.6) and photoperiod (12:12h and 0:24h) following a 98 day exposure period
11 (n=6 per treatment).
12

	<i>F</i>	<i>DF</i>	<i>p</i>
Repeated Measures ANOVA (%wCa)			
Area	5.34	3	0.002
Area*pH	2.69	1	0.83
Area*photoperiod	0.02	1	0.50
Area*pH*photoperiod	0.05	1	0.66
Repeated Measures ANOVA (%wMg)			
Area	8.45	3	<0.001
Area*pH	2.13	1	0.57
Area*photoperiod	0.56	1	0.58
Area*pH*photoperiod	1.06	1	0.27

13 14 3.4 Behavioral responses

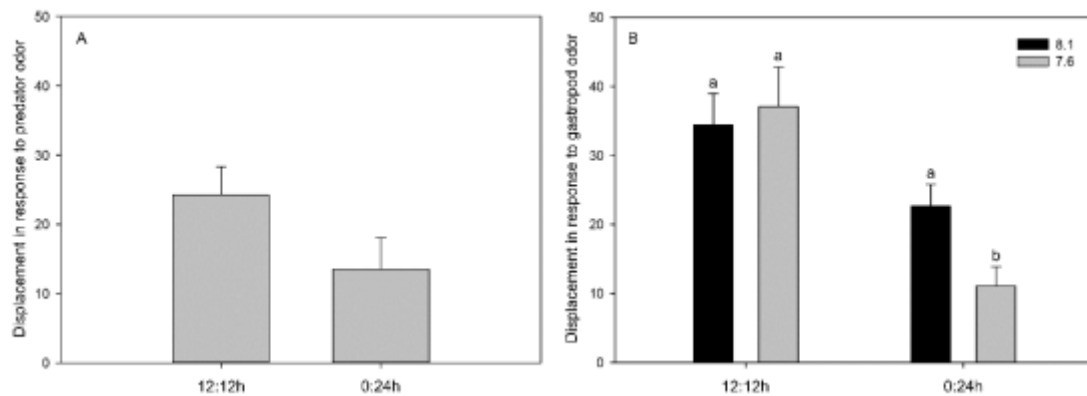
15
16 Only reduced photoperiod (shaded condition) affected behavioral responses to
17 predator odor exposure in hermit crabs, with no effect of pH (Table 6). Displacement
18 after *C. danae* stimuli was 45% lower in individuals reared in 24h of darkness compared
19 to individuals from 12:12h treatments (Figure 4A). However, effects of photoperiod, pH
20 and an interactive effect between both factors were demonstrated in response to
21 gastropod odor exposure (Table 6; Figure 4B). Thus, the effect of pH was evidenced
22 only in the 0:24h condition, since individuals of 7.6/0:24h moved 70% less, compared
23 to individuals from low pH condition and photoperiod controls (7.6/12:12h). Although
24 the displacement of hermit crabs observed in single-stressor treatments did not
25 significantly differ from control, crabs in shaded conditions moved 34% less compared
26 to individuals under control pH and photoperiod (8.1/12:12h) conditions (Figure 4B).
27

28 Table 6: Two-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of displacement activity (number of liens crossed) for
29 juvenile *Pagurus criniticornis* reared under different treatments of pH (8.1 and 7.6) and photoperiod

1 (12:12h and 0:24) for 98 days, in response to the odors of live predators (n=19) and dead gastropods
 2 (n=18). Data were log (x+1) transformed prior to analysis.
 3

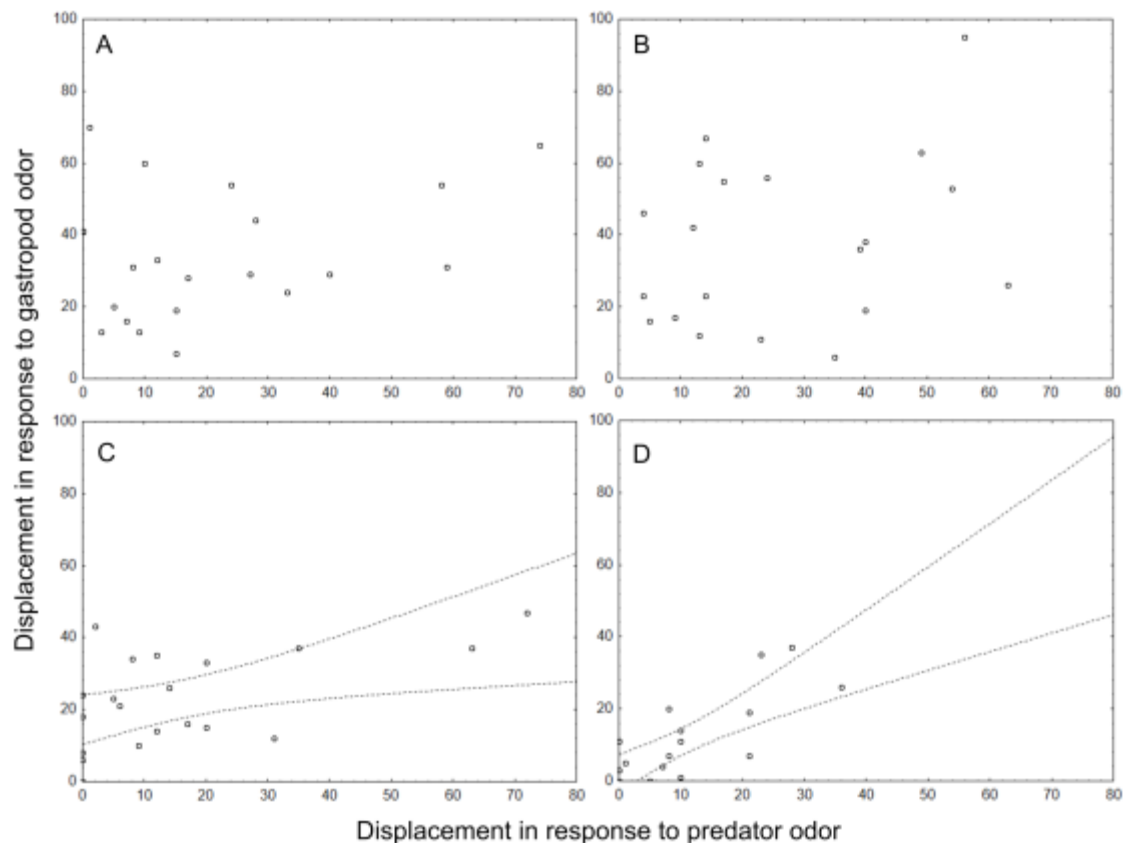
	Predator odor				Gastropod odor			
	DF	MS	F	p	DF	MS	F	p
Intercept	1	426.75	287.98	<0.001	1	611.17	738.23	<0.001
pH	1	0.02	0.01	0.92	1	3.64	4.39	0.04
Photoperiod	1	19.74	13.32	<0.001	1	20.54	24.81	<0.001
pH*Photoperiod	1	2.06	1.39	0.24	1	5.35	6.46	0.01
Error	72	1.48			68	0.83		

4



5
 6 Figure 4: Displacement activity (Mean+SE), expressed by the number of lines crossed, of juvenile
 7 *Pagurus criniticornis* reared under different treatments of pH (8.1 and 7.6) and photoperiod (12:12h and
 8 0:24h) during 98 days of exposure: (A) response to live predator odor (*Callinectes danae*) (n=19) and (B)
 9 in response to dead gastropod odor (*Cerithium atratum*) (n=18), from non-transformed data. Different
 10 letters represent significant difference by Tukey test between experimental conditions of pH and
 11 photoperiod, as evidenced by the significant interaction (Table 6).
 12

13 Displacement patterns were not correlated between both stimuli for individuals
 14 reared in control and low-pH conditions (p=0.33 and p=0.23, respectively; Figure 5A
 15 and B). Responses of crabs reared in shading condition (8.1/0:24h) showed significant
 16 correlation, even though moderate (p=0.01; r=0.55) (Figure 5C). In addition, individuals
 17 maintained on combined stressors condition showed strong correlation between predator
 18 and gastropod odors and therefore strong tendency to present similar reduced response
 19 to both stimuli (p<0.001; r=0.79) (Figure 5D).
 20



1
2 Figure 5: Correlation between displacement activity, expressed by the number of line crossed, in response
3 to predator and gastropod odors for juvenile *Pagurus criniticornis* reared for 98 days under different
4 conditions of pH (8.1 and 7.6) and photoperiod (12:12h and 0:24h), presented non-transformed data. A)
5 8.1/12:12h, control pH and control photoperiod ($p=0.33$); B) 7.6/12:12h, reduced pH and control
6 photoperiod condition ($p=0.23$); C) 8.1/0:24h, control pH and shading ($p=0.01$; $r=0.55$); D) 7.6/0:24h,
7 combined condition of reduced pH and shading ($p<0.001$; $r=0.79$). Dotted lines represent a 95%
8 confidence interval.

9

10 4. Discussion

11

12 Although there was no evidence for interactive stressor effects for all response
13 variables, our results highlight how combined environmental stressors may compromise
14 several ecological aspects for *Pagurus criniticornis*. The vulnerability of hermit crabs to
15 a combination of global environmental change effects and local quasi-permanent
16 disturbances was demonstrated by high mortality, reduced growth and changes in
17 behavioral responses that are fundamental to survival. In addition, although this study
18 investigated acute effects - since chronic effects should consider several life stages or
19 generations (Dupont et al., 2013) - the medium-term exposure (98 days) allows the
20 understanding of impacts in terms of lethal effects (Kurihara et al., 2008) and impacts
21 on advanced development stages, such as juveniles (Albright et al., 2012; Range et al.,
22 2014), both of which may interfere in maintaining local populations.

1 Reduced seawater pH is known to increase mortality in several marine
2 invertebrate taxa (Amaral et al., 2011; Donohue et al., 2012; Metzger et al., 2007),
3 especially for the most vulnerable life stages, such as larvae and juveniles (Gosselin and
4 Qian, 1997). In the current study, juvenile hermit crabs reared under reduced pH
5 conditions (7.6/12:12h) did not present an immediate increase in mortality (*i.e.*,
6 significant increase not seen until 14 weeks). This delayed response has also been
7 observed in other crustacean species maintained under OA conditions (Kurihara et al.,
8 2008; Long et al., 2013; Zheng et al., 2015). Although shading did not affect mortality,
9 a synergistic effect was evidenced in the 7.6/0:24h treatment with mortalities occurring
10 earlier, after ~42 days exposure, compared to other treatments clearly showing the
11 additional effect of shading on the tolerance of hermit crabs to hypercapnia.

12 Long et al. (2013) suggest that crustaceans may be tolerant to hypercapnia and
13 can survive during short- or medium- term exposure due to their acid-base balance
14 regulatory capabilities. However, compensating to maintain acid-base balance implies a
15 high energetic cost that impairs individual performance and survival in long-term
16 exposure (Miles et al., 2007; Pörtner et al., 2004). In addition, internal compensation of
17 external disturbances is associated with energetic costs and thus implies physiological
18 trade-offs (Wood et al., 2008). Such trade-offs may compromise other essential
19 physiological processes (Kurihara et al., 2013; Langenbuch et al., 2006; Wood et al.,
20 2008) and lead to impairment of growth and reproduction (Michaelidis et al., 2005;
21 Pörtner et al., 2004). Thus, continuous long-term exposure to reduced pH may be
22 detrimental, even for organisms tolerant to natural extreme pH variability (e.g.,
23 *Petrolisthes cinctipes* exposed to pH 7.58 for ~40 days; Ceballos-Osuna et al., 2013), as
24 observed in intertidal habitats (Morris and Taylor, 1983; Truchot, 1986) and as
25 demonstrated in this study.

26 Physiological responses to environmental stressors may explain the reduced total
27 growth of *P. criniticornis* reared under the combined stress of reduced pH and darkness
28 (7.6/0:24h) compared to control conditions (8.1/12:12h), thus demonstrating an additive
29 effect of both stressors on the growth of hermit crabs. Further, total growth was similar
30 in the 7.6/12:12h and 8.1/0:24h treatments (*i.e.*, exposure to only one stressor) and both
31 tended to be lower than control. Several studies have clearly showed slower growth
32 rates in crustaceans exposed to low pH (Findlay et al., 2010; Kurihara et al., 2008; Long
33 et al., 2013; Zheng et al., 2015). In addition, similar effects have observed in

1 crustaceans reared in constant darkness (Andrés et al., 2010; Chittleborough, 1975;
2 Gardner and Maguire, 1998), since photoperiod may influence the molting process
3 (Aiken, 1969) and growth (Hoang et al., 2003). However, photoperiod effects are
4 dependent on both species and life stage (Yue et al., 2009) and opposite effects may
5 occur in organisms with nocturnal activity (Morales and Barba Jr., 2015). Therefore,
6 species vulnerable to reduced pH and/or shading may show intensified responses to the
7 combination of both conditions, resulting in lower growth rates.

8 In this study, crabs showed the ability to maintain calcification over 98 days,
9 since cheliped %wCa and %wMg did not differ among treatments. Calcium and
10 magnesium are typically used for exoskeletal mineralization of crustaceans and the
11 effects of hypercapnia on mineral content may vary among species. For example, while
12 some crustaceans under hypercapnia may demonstrate increased concentration only for
13 calcium (Taylor et al., 2015) or magnesium (deVries et al., 2016; Small et al., 2010),
14 other species may have their exoskeletal mineral composition unaffected (Lowder et al.,
15 2017), as observed for *P. criniticornis* in the current study, even under the combined
16 stressors treatment. The ability to maintain, or even increase calcification rates and/or
17 compensate dissolution rates when exposed to seawater acidification is well known
18 amongst crustaceans (McDonald et al., 2009; Ries et al., 2009; Wickins, 1984),
19 mollusks and echinoderms (Findlay et al. 2011; Wood et al., 2008). This capacity is
20 associated with the ability of these calcifying organisms to produce CaCO_3 from CO_2
21 and bicarbonate (HCO_3^-), with no dependence on seawater carbonate saturation for
22 calcification (Cameron and Wood, 1985; Roleda et al., 2012). In addition, the carapace
23 of crustaceans is mostly composed of calcite, a less soluble form of CaCO_3 , which
24 makes the calcification process less vulnerable to seawater acidification (Boßelmann et
25 al., 2007). Furthermore, the strong regulatory ability of crustaceans allows the recovery
26 of acid-base balance after disturbances by the active transport of ions through the gills
27 between the haemolymph and the external environment (Henry and Wheatley, 1992;
28 Pörtner et al., 2004). Under such situations, excretion of H^+ accompanied by Ca^{2+} and
29 HCO_3^- intake may be favorable to the calcification process (Cameron and Wood, 1985).
30 Nevertheless, the ability to modulate calcification rates (i.e. maintain or increase
31 dependent on species/conditions), will have energetic consequences for marine
32 invertebrates (Findlay et al., 2011) and trade-offs thus occur between the maintenance
33 of calcified structures and energy allocation to other biological processes (Findlay et al.,

1 2011; Small et al., 2010; Wood et al., 2008), such as growth and potential reduced
2 survival, as shown in this study for *P. criniticornis*.

3 The results of our behavioral experiments suggest an increased vulnerability to
4 predation, for example, in situations which predators detect their prey by chemical cues
5 (Zhou and Rebach, 1999). Hermit crabs are able to visually identify predators, moving
6 in the opposite direction when a predator's silhouette or dark area is associated to odor
7 cues (Orihuela et al., 1992). This behavioral response is also demonstrated in other
8 decapod species (megalopa stage of *Aratus pisonii*, Díaz et al., 1995a; *Uca cumulanta*,
9 Chiussi and Díaz, 2002). In the current study, individuals kept in 24h of darkness were
10 less stimulated to active flight (Figure 4A) suggesting that light availability, which helps
11 to recognize potential predators after chemical cue perception, may be crucial to induce
12 escape responses more efficiently. Furthermore, since predator odor represents a
13 survival risk, even a low concentration may suffice to motivate certain behavioral
14 responses (Hazlett, 1997). For *P. criniticornis*, a potential reduction in odor detection,
15 due to the low pH conditions, was not sufficient to affect crab displacement in response
16 to a predator signal, as occurred in shaded conditions.

17 Here, the interactive effect between stressors was shown in response to the
18 gastropod odor cue, where reduced displacement was only evident for crabs reared in
19 the 7.6/0:24h treatment (i.e. combined stressors). This result is likely associated to the
20 reduced motivation to search for newly available shells, which highlights the influence
21 of environmental change on decision making and acquisition of vital resources (see de
22 la Haye et al., 2011). Although displacement of *P. criniticornis* exposed to low pH
23 (7.6/12:12h) was not affected in response to dead gastropod stimuli, hermit crabs may
24 show decreased movement in more extreme pH reductions (e.g., *Pagurus bernhardus*
25 reared in pH 6.8; de la Haye et al., 2012). In addition, hermit crabs may be less
26 motivated to investigate new shells and take longer to exchange shells (de la Haye et al.,
27 2011). Although not statistically significant, individuals in shaded conditions
28 (8.1/0:24h) also tended to reduce displacement compared to those under control
29 conditions (8.1/12:12h). Thus, disturbances in behavioral patterns in response to
30 gastropod odor may increase the vulnerability to predators, since decreased motivation
31 to search for suitable shells for protection may increase predation risk. Thus, the results
32 of the current study demonstrate how the effects of such stressors on the behavior of

1 marine organisms may be underestimated when individually evaluated, in contrast to
2 evaluation of the effects of combined environmental changes.

3 In addition, the different correlation results across environmental conditions
4 indicate that behavioral patterns may vary depending on the anthropogenic pressures
5 placed on populations. The laboratory study of predicted environmental change allows
6 for investigations on how anthropogenic stressors may affect behavioral syndromes
7 (i.e., consistent individual differences across multiple contexts and/or situations; Sih et
8 al 2004) or plasticity (i.e., behavioral flexibility; Hazlett, 1995) of marine organisms.
9 This is a field of research that has been little studied in crustaceans in general (Gherardi
10 et al., 2012) with the exception of hermit crabs (see Briffa and Bibost, 2009; Briffa et
11 al., 2008; Gorman et al., 2018; Mowles et al., 2012). However, even in hermit crabs the
12 study of OA impacts on behavior has been restricted to the single stressor of $p\text{CO}_2$
13 (Briffa et al. 2012; de la Haye et al. 2011, 2012) and not under combined environmental
14 changes (i.e. multiple stressors) induced by anthropogenic activities (e.g. reduced pH
15 and shading; this study). Thus, although the present study had not assessed the potential
16 effects of such human-induced environmental changes on behavioral syndromes or
17 plasticity (Sih, 2013) and their role in individual performance and the cascade effects
18 through populations, this area of research should be further investigated.

19

20 4.1 Conclusions

21

22 This is the first study to evaluate how reduced seawater pH, combined with
23 persistent shading may affect a crustacean species, increasing its vulnerability to
24 environmental stressors induced by human activities. This combination of stressors (i.e.
25 reduced pH and shading) has been little investigated and the few existing studies focus
26 on the effects on reef-building coral species (Suggett et al., 2013; Vogel et al. 2015).
27 Our results provide evidence that calcification in hermit crabs can be maintained at the
28 expense of decreased growth and increased and earlier mortality in populations of crabs
29 exposed to these combined stressors. Such findings emphasize the need for long-term
30 OA experiments in the context of multiple stressors (i.e. reduced pH in combination
31 with other environmental changes), to assess the effects on biological processes, to
32 determine the potential consequences at the population or even ecosystem level.
33 Population impacts may be intensified by changes in behavioral patterns induced by the
34 interactions between multiple stressors, for example, effects on decision-making in

1 hermit crabs may interfere with selection of new shells, creating optimal conditions for
2 growth (Fotheringham, 1976), fecundity (Elwood et al., 1995) and protection against
3 predators (Reese, 1969). In addition, we suggest that future studies focusing on
4 behavioral responses, associated to environmental changes, consider behavioral
5 syndromes and include repeatability of responses in order to find context-dependent
6 consistencies.

7 This study suggests that, in addition to photosynthetic and calcifying organisms
8 (Suggett et al., 2013; Vogel et al., 2015), populations of crustacean species inhabiting
9 coastal regions also may be impacted by future scenarios of low pH and reduced light
10 availability. Some species may be able to adapt to, or tolerate future acidification
11 conditions (Kim et al., 2016). However, any adaptation in a multiple stressor context
12 bears costs associated to intensified physiological stress (Rosa and Seibel, 2008),
13 leading to potential disturbances on interspecific interactions (Keppel et al., 2015) and
14 community structure (Menge and Sutherland, 1987). For this reason, future studies need
15 to consider environmental changes scenarios on environmental impact assessment in
16 order to provide a more realistic perspective to management (Heller and Zavaleta, 2009;
17 Mani-Peres et al., 2016; Tompkins and Adger, 2004). In coastal regions, effective
18 strategies for local mitigation of anthropogenic impacts may be employed, aiming at the
19 reduction of potential interactive effects with global environmental changes.

20

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28

29 7. Author contributions:

30 MNR: wrote the main text, set up and maintained the experiment, ran the behavioral responses
31 experiment and data analyses, revised the manuscript.

32 IDM wrote the main text, contributed in statistical analysis and revised the manuscript.

33 WF: contributed in statistical analysis and revised the manuscript.

34 APT: supervised the calcification analysis and revised the text.

1 AT: supervised the study and revised the manuscript.

2

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