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Poised to Prosper? A Cross-system Comparison of Climate Change Effects on Native and Non-native Species Performance

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51 **Abstract**

52 Climate change and biological invasions are primary threats to global biodiversity that may interact in the
53 future. To date, the hypothesis that climate change will favor non-native species has been examined
54 exclusively through local comparisons of single or few species. Here, we take a meta-analytical approach
55 to broadly evaluate whether non-native species are poised to respond more positively than native species
56 to future climatic conditions. We compiled a database of studies in aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that
57 reported performance measures of non-native (157 species) and co-occurring native species (204 species)
58 under different temperature, CO₂, and precipitation conditions. Our analyses revealed that in terrestrial
59 (primarily plant) systems, native and non-native species responded similarly to environmental changes.
60 By contrast, in aquatic (primarily animal) systems, increases in temperature and CO₂ largely inhibited
61 native species. There was a general trend towards stronger responses among non-native species, including
62 enhanced positive responses to more favorable conditions and stronger negative responses to less
63 favorable conditions. As climate change proceeds, aquatic systems may be particularly vulnerable to
64 invasion. Across systems, there could be a higher risk of invasion at sites becoming more climatically
65 hospitable, while sites shifting towards harsher conditions may become more resistant to invasions.

66 INTRODUCTION

67
68 Future climate change may facilitate biological invasions, accentuating its effects on local and regional
69 biodiversity (D'Antonio & Vitousek 1992; Dukes & Mooney 1999; Hellman *et al.* 2008; Rahel & Olden
70 2008; Huang *et al.* 2011; Diez *et al.* 2012). Shifts in the magnitude and variability of carbon dioxide
71 (CO₂) levels, temperature, and precipitation are altering local conditions, in some cases inhibiting resident
72 species (Walther *et al.* 2002; Root *et al.* 2003; Parmesan 2006). These changes may provide colonization
73 opportunities for non-resident native or non-native species (i.e., species introduced to that location by
74 humans; Richardson *et al.* 2000; Webber & Scott 2012) that are better suited to the new conditions
75 (Dukes & Mooney 1999; Byers 2002; Thuiller *et al.* 2007). For example, projected changes in
76 precipitation and temperature could lead to species turnover rates of more than 40% in European plant
77 communities (Thuiller *et al.* 2005). Although climate change and biological invasions each are altering
78 ecosystem structure and functioning, we lack a general, quantitative understanding of how these drivers
79 interact and could synergistically affect ecosystems in the future.

80 Non-native species may be poised to take advantage of emerging opportunities for colonization
81 and population growth created by climate change. By definition, non-native species have, given their
82 presence in introduced habitats, already succeeded in colonizing new environments. As a result, many
83 non-native species have traits that are useful for coping with environmental change (Dukes & Mooney
84 1999; Theoharides & Dukes 2007; Vilà *et al.* 2007), including relatively strong dispersal abilities
85 (Rejmánek & Richardson 1996), minimal reliance on specialized mutualists (van Kleunen *et al.* 2008),
86 rapid growth rates (Grotkopp *et al.* 2010), broad environmental tolerances (Willis *et al.* 2010; Zerebecki
87 & Sorte 2011), and high phenotypic plasticity (Daehler 2003; Davidson *et al.* 2011). In addition, some
88 climatic changes are increasing resource availability (e.g., increased precipitation and atmospheric CO₂)
89 and fluctuations in resource availability (e.g., linked to extreme climatic events; Diez *et al.* 2012), which
90 could facilitate the establishment and spread of fast-growing species, including many of non-native origin
91 (Davis *et al.* 2000; Daehler 2003; Blumenthal *et al.* 2008; González *et al.* 2010; Dukes *et al.* 2011).

92 Conversely, changes that reduce resource availability, such as decreased precipitation, increased
93 occurrence of drought, or CO₂-driven increases in nitrogen limitation (Daehler 2003; Luo *et al.* 2004),
94 could inhibit non-native species (Bradley *et al.* 2010). Thus, while established non-native species have
95 demonstrated their abilities to persist in new regions, it is not clear whether these species will benefit
96 more than co-occurring native species from changes in climatic conditions.

97 Relative effects of climate change on native and non-native species are likely to vary widely
98 across ecosystems and taxa. For example, in aquatic systems, elevated CO₂ is associated with decreased
99 pH, often inhibiting calcification and growth (Orr *et al.* 2005). By contrast, elevated CO₂ increases carbon
100 availability and enhances water use efficiency for terrestrial plants, increasing growth of most species
101 (Ainsworth & Long 2005) and sometimes strongly favoring non-native species (Smith *et al.* 2000; Dukes
102 *et al.* 2011). Warming may increase growth rates in temperate aquatic and mesic terrestrial ecosystems,
103 thus promoting fast-growing non-native species (Stachowicz *et al.* 2002; Rahel & Olden 2008; Sorte *et al.*
104 2010a); however, in arid and semi-arid ecosystems, increased temperatures may exacerbate drought,
105 potentially favoring drought-tolerant natives (Bradley *et al.* 2010; Seager & Vecchi 2010). The net effect
106 of climate change on the success of non-native species is likely to depend on both the degree to which
107 environmental alterations inhibit (or promote) native species (Byers 2002) and the availability of both
108 native and non-native species that are better adapted to new conditions (Bradley *et al.* 2012).

109 Concerns about how species invasions will interact with climate change have been articulated in
110 several reviews (Dukes & Mooney 1999; Occhipinti-Ambrogi 2007; Thuiller *et al.* 2007; Vilà *et al.* 2007;
111 Hellman *et al.* 2008; Rahel & Olden 2008; Walther *et al.* 2009; Bradley *et al.* 2010). Until recently,
112 however, there were too few studies comparing native and non-native species responses to predicted
113 climatic conditions to conduct meaningful quantitative syntheses. Here, we provide the first meta-analysis
114 of studies comparing the responses of native and non-native species to elevated CO₂, warming, and
115 changes in precipitation, including studies from terrestrial, marine, and freshwater ecosystems. We
116 analyzed 132 studies (from 89 publications) that simultaneously quantified performance for both native

117 and non-native species under ambient and altered climatic conditions (Table 1) to address the following
118 questions:

119

- 120 1. How might climatic changes affect the performance of native and non-native species?
- 121 2. Will predicted climatic conditions differentially favor non-native species (i.e., do non-natives
122 respond more positively than native species)?
- 123 3. How do absolute and relative responses vary by system and environmental driver, as well as by
124 intrinsic attributes (e.g., response type and life stage) and extrinsic factors (e.g., geography and
125 magnitude of climatic change)?
- 126 4. What can the shape of the relationship between performance responses and increasing magnitude
127 of change tell us about which groups of species, under which conditions, exhibit the greatest
128 sensitivity to climate change?

129

130 Answering these questions will allow us to assess the combined threat of climate change and biological
131 invasions and to identify drivers that might make particular systems more susceptible to an increase in
132 non-native species. The results of our analyses indicate that altered environmental conditions favored
133 non-native species in aquatic habitats but not in terrestrial habitats. However, non-natives do not appear to
134 be universally poised for increased performance and responded more strongly than native species both to
135 beneficial and detrimental climate changes.

136

137 **METHODS**

138

139 We conducted a systematic review of the peer-reviewed literature to support an evidence-based
140 examination of native *versus* non-native responses to projected climate change. Systematic reviews
141 follow a strict protocol to maximize transparency and repeatability while minimizing bias (Pullin &
142 Knight 2009; Stewart 2010). We applied a set of established guidelines from the ecological sciences for

143 undertaking the steps of a formalized systematic review, which included protocol formation, search
144 strategy, data inclusion, data extraction, and analysis (Pullin & Stewart 2006).

145

146 **Protocol formation and search strategy**

147 We searched ISI Web of Knowledge for topics using a combination of search terms for non-native
148 species, system, and environmental driver of climate change, including changes in temperature, CO₂
149 levels (with aquatic pH), and precipitation (see Appendix S1 in Supporting Information). We also
150 performed targeted searches for cited references as well as publications based on known ongoing global
151 change studies (Terrestrial Carbon [TerraC] Information System 2011).

152

153 **Data inclusion**

154 In total, we reviewed approximately 60,000 titles and 3,000 abstracts to identify papers that met three
155 main criteria. (1) Included at least one native and one non-native species (with origin as identified in the
156 papers themselves or through our own literature search) that co-occur in the study location but were not
157 necessarily closely related taxonomically. Non-native species needed to be considered
158 established/naturalized at the study location, but we made no assumptions about species' impacts. (2)
159 Contained at least two treatment levels (i.e., ambient and altered conditions) of a particular climate driver.
160 (3) Reported a measure of performance that fell within the categories of survival, growth, or fecundity.

161

162 **Data extraction**

163 We identified 89 papers that met our criteria (App. S1, S2), including unpublished data from a
164 dissertation (G. Coffman *unpubl. data*) and our own studies (D. Blumenthal & L. Perry *unpubl. data*).
165 From these papers, we extracted data for 132 unique studies (including 204 native and 157 non-native
166 species) that were run independently with distinct controls. When necessary, we used digital photo
167 analysis software (e.g., ImageJ; Rasband 2009) to estimate values from published figures. When data
168 were presented for multiple time points in a time series, only the end point (longest duration of the study)

169 was included. When more than two treatment levels were established in a single study, or multiple
 170 performance measures were reported, they were all included in our analyses. Performance measure
 171 categories included survival (note that mortality estimates were converted to survival rates), growth
 172 (biomass, size, cover, or photosynthetic rate), and fecundity (number or mass of propagules or
 173 reproductive structures). We extracted, when available, mean, sample size, and variance for the
 174 performance of each species.

175

176 **Data analysis**

177 We ran two parallel sets of analyses: a traditional meta-analysis and a hierarchical analysis. Within the
 178 traditional analysis, we assessed general patterns in responses of native and non-native species to
 179 changing climate, and we conducted a mixed-model analysis to investigate effects of potential covariates.
 180 In addition, we developed a hierarchical approach to explore the relationship of native and non-native
 181 species' responses to increasing magnitudes of climate change.

182 For both approaches, we calculated the effect size (*ES*) of each species' response to climate
 183 change as the ratio of the difference between treatment and ambient responses to the average of responses
 184 across treatment and ambient conditions, or:

185

$$186 \quad ES = (response_{treatment} - response_{ambient}) / (\bar{x}_{response})$$

187

188 We used this *ES* instead of the log-response ratio because, while the two metrics are highly correlated (3rd
 189 order polynomial $R^2 = 0.99$), our dataset included a large number of zero values, and the required
 190 adjustments for log calculations can influence results (Sweeting *et al.* 2004). For the same reasons, we
 191 also used this calculation to estimate magnitude of treatment (*MT*); thus, the difference between treatment
 192 and ambient conditions for the climate driver (i.e., temperature, CO₂, or precipitation) was:

193

194
$$MT = (variable_{treatment} - variable_{ambient}) / (\bar{x}_{variable})$$

195

196 These calculations of effect size and magnitude of treatment allowed us to standardize the treatment
197 conditions and responses across the large variety of studies we worked with, including different climate
198 drivers and different responses (i.e., survival, growth, and fecundity). Estimates of both effect size and
199 magnitude of treatment ranged from -2 to 2.

200

201 *Traditional meta-analysis.* We first conducted comparisons to determine the responsiveness to climatic
202 changes across groups and relative differences between native and non-native species. For this analysis,
203 the study was the level of replication, and we pooled ES values for individual species, treatment levels,
204 and response types to yield a single ES_{native} and $ES_{non-native}$ value for each study (i.e., independent
205 comparisons of species' responses, as described above). We then calculated mean effect sizes for the
206 responses of native and non-native species to each climate driver (+ temperature, + CO₂, + precipitation,
207 and - precipitation), both across systems and separately for aquatic (i.e., pooled marine and freshwater)
208 and terrestrial species. We used the jackboot macro in SAS v. 9.2 (SAS Institute 2008) to calculate the
209 bias-corrected bootstrapped 95% confidence interval (based on 999 permutations) for each comparison.
210 Effects on performance of native and non-native species were significant when the bootstrapped
211 confidence intervals did not intersect with zero. To assess whether responses to climate change varied
212 between native and non-native species, we used the methods described above to test for significance of
213 the difference between the responses (i.e., [$ES_{non-native} - ES_{native}$] calculated separately for each study).

214 In addition to the study-level analysis, above, we conducted a parallel analysis at the individual
215 species level that incorporated the variances in measured performance responses. This analysis was
216 comprised of a smaller subset of 69% of the studies that reported variances. Further detail on these
217 methods is provided in Appendix S3.

218 We also used four mixed models to examine whether, at the species level, *ES* was affected by
219 characteristics of the study treatments, organisms, and environments. Mixed models have been used
220 previously for meta-analyses in a variety of research fields, including ecology (Harsch *et al.* 2009), and
221 offer the flexibility to explore effects of a wide variety of explanatory variables. In all four mixed models,
222 a random effect for the study was used to control for patterns that could be driven only by particular
223 studies. The first model corresponded to the traditional analysis, which addressed whether *ES* varied for
224 native and non-native species between different study systems (i.e., aquatic and terrestrial) and climate
225 drivers (i.e., + temperature, + CO₂, + precipitation, and - precipitation). In the second model, magnitude
226 of treatment was added as a covariate to control for differences among studies. The third model included
227 additional study information (treated as fixed effects) that was hypothesized to affect species' responses.
228 These variables were: response type (survival, growth, and reproduction), habitat (forest, grassland, non-
229 grassland herbaceous, aquatic, and other [e.g., desert, shrubland]), geographic location (latitude), and life
230 stage (adult, juvenile, and other). The fourth model was used to specifically test for effects of latitude
231 across study systems and climate drivers.

232 Mixed models to test for effects of additional explanatory variables were fit in a Bayesian
233 framework using OpenBUGS software (Lunn *et al.* 2009) called from R (R Development Core Team
234 2011) with the package R2OpenBUGS (Sturtz *et al.* 2005), and all model parameters were given non-
235 informative prior distributions. Bayesian meta-analyses using non-informative priors give comparable
236 estimates to traditional methods while offering flexibility to explore more complex models (Mila &
237 Ngugi 2011). Covariates were considered significant if the 95% interval of their coefficients' posterior
238 distributions did not overlap zero. Differences between native and non-native species were assessed by
239 subtracting estimated regression coefficients for natives from those of non-natives, yielding posterior
240 distributions of the differences between all native and non-native parameters. If the 95% interval of a
241 difference's posterior distribution did not overlap zero, then the responses of native and non-native
242 species were considered significantly different.

243

244 *Hierarchical analyses.* To examine whether the responses of native and non-native species vary with the
245 magnitude of climate change, we modeled the relationship between effect size and magnitude of the
246 treatment (Osenberg *et al.* 1997, 1999). To do this, we first divided species according to whether the
247 direction of their responses indicated a detrimental (negative) or beneficial (positive) effect of climate
248 change on performance. We then used absolute values for both variables when estimating effect size as a
249 function of the magnitude of treatment. We initially explored the relationship between the two variables
250 as well as the effect of duration of treatment by fitting several biologically-plausible functions to the *ES*
251 data (e.g., linear, quadratic, logistic). The best fit relationship (based on lowest Deviance Information
252 Criterion; Spiegelhalter *et al.* 2000) estimated effect size, *ES*, as an asymptotic function of magnitude of
253 treatment, *MT*, with two parameters that describe the maximum effect size and the half saturation constant
254 (see Fig. S4.1 in App. S4). These two parameters have useful biological interpretations that can then be
255 compared between native and non-native species: the maximum effect size is an indicator of species'
256 maximum potential responses to climate change, and the half saturation constant indicates how sensitive
257 species' performances are to an increment of change in climatic conditions.

258 To test for differences between the responses of native and non-native species under changing
259 conditions, these two parameters were estimated hierarchically. Each parameter's estimates for a
260 particular climate driver (temperature, CO₂, or precipitation) were nested within system (terrestrial or
261 aquatic) and then further nested within an overall estimate for each origin (native or non-native) (App. S4;
262 Clark & Gelfand 2006). This hierarchical structure allowed us to test for significant differences between
263 native and non-native species at each level by calculating the differences between each pair of parameters
264 (i.e., $parameter_{native} - parameter_{non-native}$). When 95% confidence intervals around these differences did not
265 include zero, the responses of native and non-native species were considered significantly different.
266 Finally, we used these parameter values, their means, and their variance-covariance matrix to predict
267 effect size as a function of magnitude of treatment at each of the three levels. We used Bayesian methods
268 (Gelman & Hill 2007) for running these hierarchical models in OpenBUGS 1.4 (Thomas *et al.* 2006), and
269 simulations (three chains) were run until convergence of the parameters was ensured (~50,000 iterations).

270 Models were then run for another 25,000 iterations from which posterior parameter values and predicted
271 responses were estimated. Further detail on these methods is provided in Appendix S4.

272

273 **RESULTS**

274

275 Our traditional meta-analysis revealed differences in effects of climate change on species performance
276 based upon climate drivers and species origins (Fig. 1). For both native and non-native terrestrial species,
277 increased and decreased precipitation led to positive and negative responses, respectively. Increased CO₂
278 benefited non-native species overall, which was driven by a positive response of terrestrial (primarily
279 plant; Table 1) species. By contrast, aquatic (primarily animal) species, particularly native ones, tended to
280 be negatively affected by increased CO₂. Temperature effects were non-significant overall and never
281 significant for non-native species. However, there was a positive effect of warming on native terrestrial
282 species and a trend towards a negative effect of warming on native aquatic species. The species-specific
283 results from the variance-weighted analysis always paralleled those from the study-level analysis, with the
284 statistical differences being that the variance-weighted analysis detected significant negative and positive
285 effects of CO₂ enhancement on aquatic and terrestrial natives, respectively, but did not detect significant
286 responses of terrestrial natives under warming or non-natives under increased precipitation (App. S3).
287 The mixed model results presented in Appendix S5 similarly paralleled those presented in Figure 1.

288 Results of the paired, within-study analysis indicated that non-native aquatic species were
289 significantly favored over native species when temperature was elevated and when CO₂ was increased
290 (Fig. 2). However, in the terrestrial comparisons, no differences were detected between native and non-
291 native species, although non-natives trended towards a more positive response to increased CO₂ and
292 precipitation and a more negative response than native species to decreased precipitation and increased
293 temperature. The mixed model without additional covariates, an unpaired analysis, gave comparable
294 results: here, non-native species were found to respond significantly more positively than natives under
295 elevated temperatures in aquatic systems and under elevated precipitation in terrestrial systems (App. S5).

296 Of additional factors that we tested *via* the mixed models, treatment magnitude (i.e., level of
297 environmental change) had significant effects on some response variables: both native and non-native
298 aquatic organisms were more negatively affected in studies with exposure to higher levels of warming
299 (App. S5). However, inclusion of treatment magnitude in the mixed models did not alter the basic
300 estimates of response differences for each origin-driver-system group. No additional factors (including
301 performance response type, habitat, latitude, or life stage) had significant effects on native or non-native
302 species responses, although in warmed aquatic systems, the effect of increasing latitude (of the study
303 location) tended to be positive for non-natives but negative for native species (App. S5). Overall, there
304 were no significant differences between native and non-native species in how they responded to these
305 covariates (App. S5).

306 In our expanded analysis of the relationship of species' performance responses to magnitude of
307 environmental change, we found that non-native species had higher parameter values (i.e., were more
308 responsive to changing climatic conditions) in all comparisons of the maximum effect size parameter
309 (Fig. 3, App. S6). However, in all but two cases, native species were more responsive to increasing
310 treatment magnitude (i.e., had a lower half saturation constant) than non-native species (Fig. 3, App. S6).
311 The groups with the maximum potential performance responses to climate change (i.e., largest estimates
312 of maximum effect size) were, for species responding positively, terrestrial and aquatic non-natives under
313 increased temperature and, for species responding negatively, aquatic non-native species under increased
314 temperature and CO₂. The most responsive groups (i.e., groups with the smallest values for the half
315 saturation constant) were all terrestrial species responding positively to precipitation and native aquatic
316 species responding negatively to increased temperature and CO₂. The only statistically significant
317 differences between native and non-native species ($parameter_{native} - parameter_{non-native}$; Fig. 3) were both
318 maximum effect size and half saturation constant for aquatic species responding negatively to temperature
319 increase (Fig. 3, App. S6). Overall, although non-significant, our predictive curves of effect size as a
320 function of magnitude of treatment suggested that non-native species tended to respond more strongly

321 both in improved conditions when performance increased as well as in more stressful conditions when
322 performance decreased (Fig. 4 for overall curves, App. S7 for system and driver by system curves).

323

324 **DISCUSSION**

325

326 To support proactive ecosystem management in a rapidly changing environment, it is important to
327 understand how ongoing climatic changes are likely to interact with biological invasions. Globally, both
328 factors have been recognized as major drivers of biodiversity loss, and “interactions among the causes of
329 biodiversity change...represent one of the largest uncertainties in projections of future biodiversity
330 change” (Sala *et al.* 2000). The results of our meta-analysis indicate that absolute and relative responses
331 of native and non-native species to climatic shifts depend upon changing temperature and the type and
332 direction of altered resource availability. Non-native species are poised to outperform native species in
333 aquatic ecosystems while responses in terrestrial systems are less consistent.

334

335 **Effects of changing climate on species performance**

336 Our meta-analysis uncovered largely parallel responses of native and non-native species to climate
337 change when resources were either enhanced or became more limiting. For terrestrial species, of which
338 studies of plants composed the majority of data (other studies were of arthropods), our results highlight a
339 pattern of increased performance in response to elevated CO₂ and precipitation but decreased
340 performance at reduced levels of precipitation. The strong responses of terrestrial species to precipitation
341 are consistent with results from a meta-analysis of ecosystem-level responses to changing water
342 availability (Wu *et al.* 2011). In addition, our finding of a significant increase in performance of non-
343 native (but not native) terrestrial species under enhanced CO₂ is consistent with previous work showing
344 stronger non-native species responses to CO₂ enrichment in some studies (e.g., Smith *et al.* 2000; Belote
345 *et al.* 2004). Elevated temperature also led to increased plant performance, although only significantly for
346 native species. Responses to warming can also be related – although indirectly – to resource availability:

347 while plants in cold-limited and wet climates may typically benefit from warming, those in water-limited
348 conditions may not (Hoepfner & Dukes 2012). A *post-hoc* comparison indicated that effects of warming
349 (for both native and non-native terrestrial species) tended to be negative in arid, but positive in non-arid,
350 ecosystems; however, we were limited in assessing this potential context-dependency by the small
351 number of studies conducted under relatively dry conditions (i.e., 5 of 26 terrestrial studies).

352 The negative responses of aquatic species – particularly natives – to changing environmental
353 conditions may be related to resource availability or increased metabolic costs. In aquatic systems,
354 increased dissolved CO₂ is associated with a decrease in pH and changes in water chemistry that make
355 shell formation more difficult and costly (Orr *et al.* 2005). Increased temperature generally leads to
356 increased metabolic rates for both aquatic and terrestrial organisms, particularly ectotherms, which
357 represent all of the species included in these studies. Increased temperature also leads to a decrease in
358 dissolved oxygen in aquatic systems, which then further lowers the tolerance of aquatic animals to
359 warming (Pörtner & Knust 2007). Changes in resource availability could have, then, driven a number of
360 the performance responses that we detected across native and non-native species in both aquatic and
361 terrestrial systems.

362

363 **Will non-native species be favored under climate change?**

364 We found that performance of aquatic non-native species decreased less than that of co-occurring native
365 species in potential future climatic conditions whereas we found only weak evidence for differential
366 responses in terrestrial ecosystems. The lack of a strong and consistent origin-related response of
367 terrestrial species to climatic factors of global change contrasts with results found, for example, in a meta-
368 analysis of responses to eutrophication: nutrient enrichment consistently favored non-native plants and
369 invertebrates over their native counterparts (González *et al.* 2010). Recognizing distinctions between
370 study designs is important for interpreting differing results across analyses of performance responses to
371 climate change. In this study, we quantified how predicted climatic conditions changed performance of
372 native and non-native species relative to current ambient or average conditions, rather than comparing

373 absolute performance differences between native and non-native species (e.g., González *et al.* 2010).
374 Therefore, our findings for terrestrial species suggest that responses to climate change will not differ
375 between native and non-native species; however, if the current trend is for non-natives to outperform
376 native species, then there is no climate-based reason for this to change in the future. Results from a meta-
377 analysis of performance-related traits in plants yield support for the hypothesis that non-natives
378 outperform native species under current climatic conditions in some settings (van Kleunen *et al.* 2010).
379 Furthermore, in a *post-hoc* analysis of the performance differences between native and non-native plant
380 species in our study (using the effect size *ES* for the ambient response_{non-native} vs. response_{native}), we
381 detected a slight non-native performance advantage (0.15 ± 0.08 SE; one-sample *t*-test $t = 1.880$, $df = 93$,
382 $p = 0.063$). Thus, in terrestrial plant systems, the lack of differential responses to altered conditions would
383 suggest that non-native species are likely to at least retain any prior advantage over native species as the
384 climate changes.

385 In aquatic ecosystems, our results suggest that non-native species are favored under
386 environmental change relative to native species. Non-native species were less negatively affected by
387 increases in both temperature and CO₂ than co-occurring native species. This dichotomy of non-native
388 performance advantages under climate change in aquatic but not terrestrial systems is an interesting
389 finding but has an important caveat: we were unable to distinguish among differences between native and
390 non-native species that are innate to system (i.e., aquatic or terrestrial) or to life form (i.e., plant or
391 animal). This is because, although we conducted our analyses hierarchically by climate driver (i.e.,
392 temperature, CO₂, and precipitation) and system, we necessarily relied on a subset of organisms that are
393 amenable to experimentation and observation, and thus the focus of past study. As a result, there was a
394 disproportionate representation of animals (particularly invertebrates) in aquatic studies (although less so
395 in the CO₂ analyses) and plants in terrestrial studies (Table 1, App. S2). For example, although responses
396 of aquatic species to increased CO₂ were, on balance, negative, this was driven by the negative animal
397 responses: non-native and native aquatic primary producers responded positively in 3/3 and 2/3 of studies,
398 respectively.

399 Thus, particularly in aquatic animal systems exposed to warming or acidification, non-native
400 species appear to be at a performance advantage relative to co-occurring native species. Mechanisms for
401 this pattern may include differences between native and non-native species in environmental conditions at
402 their geographic origins and their respective physiological tolerances (e.g., see Deutsch *et al.* 2008). For
403 the species compared in several of these studies, compilations of experimental results indicate that the
404 non-natives can tolerate higher – and a broader range of – temperatures (e.g., for the Mediterranean
405 mussel [Lockwood & Somero 2011; Somero 2012] and an assemblage of non-native invertebrates
406 [Zerebecki & Sorte 2011]). Therefore, warming conditions can sometimes becoming more
407 physiologically optimal for particular species (e.g., Witte *et al.* 2010). Furthermore, all of the aquatic
408 experiments were conducted in temperate habitats whereas the majority of the aquatic non-natives
409 originated in warmer locations (e.g., the Mediterranean or northwestern Pacific), indicating that the non-
410 native advantage may derive from a long history of adaptation to higher temperatures. The importance of
411 geography is also illustrated, to some degree, by the mixed model results, which suggest that native
412 species inhabiting cooler (higher-latitude) locations are most negatively affected at increased temperature
413 whereas the non-natives in these locations are poised for more positive performance responses to
414 warming. Unlike the warming comparisons, there are few studies available to assess physiological
415 mechanisms that may explain differential CO₂ or pH tolerances between native and non-native species. It
416 is also interesting to note that patterns of thermal tolerance and latitudinal variation did not lead to
417 differential native vs. non-native performance responses for terrestrial plants (Fig. 2).

418 The uneven taxonomic and geographic distribution of studies in our database highlights the need
419 for additional study of the responses of native and non-native terrestrial animals and aquatic primary
420 producers to climate change, especially in non-temperate habitats. For example, a recent literature review
421 revealed that only a small fraction of non-native species have been well studied (only 49 out of 892
422 species were the subject of 10 or more studies), and only in a subset of geographic regions, with Africa
423 and Asia understudied (Pyšek *et al.* 2008). Although we compiled data from a relatively large number of
424 studies for this meta-analysis, our sample sizes were limited for particular combinations of systems and

425 drivers (Table 1). The fact that most non-significant trends matched predictions for differential native
426 *versus* non-native responses (Dukes & Mooney 1999; Rahel & Olden 2008; Bradley *et al.* 2010) suggests
427 that stronger patterns could emerge as more data become available.

428

429 **Shape and sensitivity of responses to climate change**

430 Beyond the absolute and relative directions of their performance responses, our analyses indicated that
431 non-native species tended to respond more strongly than native species either when conditions became
432 more suitable (increased survival, growth, fecundity, etc.) or when conditions became more stressful (i.e.,
433 increased mortality or stunted growth) (Fig. 3). These patterns appear characteristic of opportunistic
434 species that are able to quickly capitalize on increased resources such as enhanced precipitation or
435 elevated CO₂ but, at the same time, may not perform as effectively through stressful periods (Davis *et al.*
436 2000; Blumenthal 2006). For growth and reproduction, greater responsiveness of non-native species is
437 also consistent with non-native species having higher phenotypic plasticity – and incurring increased cost
438 under resource limitation – as compared to native species (Daehler 2003; Davidson *et al.* 2011). Across
439 our analyses, however, we observed large variability in responses within groups, which led to large
440 variation in predictive curves of performance responses as a function of magnitude of climate change
441 (Fig. 4, App. S7). Given these high levels of variability, statistically significant differences were limited
442 to a single comparison: aquatic species responding negatively to warming. In this case, performance of
443 native species was more responsive to the magnitude of temperature increase but their decreased
444 performance saturated at a lower level (i.e., relatively less impaired), meaning that aquatic non-natives
445 susceptible to warming had a greater scope for responding negatively to warming.

446 Describing the relationship of performance to magnitude of climate change allows us to project
447 the relative trajectories of native and non-native species under future climatic conditions. Thus, based on
448 our results for aquatic species that were negatively affected by warming, we might predict non-native
449 species to have an initial advantage given that performance of native species declined most under
450 relatively moderate changes in climate. But non-natives would sustain greater effects on performance

451 given their greater response scope as temperatures become increasingly stressful. Furthermore, estimating
452 the slopes of the response curves could allow us to predict relative effects of severely altered climatic
453 conditions outside of the range of climates examined in previous experiments and observations. In
454 summary, given sufficient data, the metrics estimated using this hierarchical approach – sensitivity to
455 magnitude of change and maximum responsiveness – could help us identify ecological thresholds and
456 forecast future ecosystem compositions.

457

458 **Conclusions**

459 Our systematic review revealed that in aquatic systems, non-native animal species have a strong
460 performance advantage associated with increases in temperatures and CO₂ levels. We also identified
461 weaker trends towards similar patterns with increases in CO₂ and precipitation among terrestrial species.
462 Increasing the disparity in performance between native and non-native species is likely to exacerbate the
463 effects of climate change on community- and ecosystem-level processes, particularly when such non-
464 natives negatively impact resident species. Given our focus on performance measures such as
465 demographic rates (i.e., survival and reproduction) and biomass, components that have the potential to
466 affect abundance, range size, and per capita effects, we might speculate that impacts of aquatic non-native
467 species could be enhanced under elevated temperature and CO₂ (Parker *et al.* 1999). Although, in aquatic
468 systems, negative impacts of non-native species have been most often demonstrated (e.g., Williams &
469 Smith 2007; Sorte *et al.* 2010b), positive impacts could also increase under climate change, and
470 replacement of declining natives might sometimes prove beneficial at the community or ecosystem level
471 (e.g., Crooks 1998). Thus, greater focus on integrating performance measures with an understanding of
472 non-native species' impacts, especially with climate change, is needed for predicting higher-level changes
473 under future climatic conditions. In conclusion, we found that non-native species capitalized on increased
474 resources with environmental change, but they were also negatively affected when conditions became less
475 suitable, and that strong differential effects of climate change on native and non-native species are more
476 likely to be observed among aquatic animals than among terrestrial plants.

477

478

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480

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489

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649

650

651 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

652

653 Additional Supporting Information may be downloaded via the online version of this article at Wiley
654 Online Library (www.ecologyletters.com).

655

656 **Appendix S1** Search terms for the systematic review and references for papers included in the meta-
657 analysis.

658 **Appendix S2** Table summarizing studies included in the meta-analysis.

659 **Appendix S3** Results of variance-weighted meta-analysis.

660 **Appendix S4** Methods for the hierarchical analysis of response as a function of magnitude of the climate
661 treatment.

662 **Appendix S5** Results of mixed models used to assess effects of potential covariates.

663 **Appendix S6** Posterior mean parameter values for the hierarchical analyses.

664 **Appendix S7** Results of hierarchical analyses by system and climate driver.

665

666 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

667

668 **Figure 1** Performance responses of native (black circles) and non-native species (gray triangles) to
669 drivers of climate change (including elevated temperature, CO₂, and precipitation, and decreased
670 precipitation). Effect sizes are given as average *ES* (difference-to-mean ratio; see *Methods*) for studies of
671 aquatic species (Aq), terrestrial species (Terr), or both (All). Error bars are bias-corrected bootstrapped
672 95% CIs, and asterisks denote *ES*'s that are different from zero and, thus, significant responses of groups
673 to potential future climatic conditions. Sample sizes are given in Table 1.

674

675 **Figure 2** Differences in effect sizes (*ES*'s; i.e., performance responses) between native and non-native
676 species. Values are mean differences between groups \pm bias-corrected bootstrapped 95% CIs within
677 studies of aquatic species (Aq), terrestrial species (Terr), or both (All). Asterisks denote *ES* differences

678 between native and non-native species that are significantly greater (non-natives favored) or less than zero
679 (natives favored). Sample sizes are given in Table 1.

680

681 **Figure 3** Responsiveness to treatment magnitude (i.e., magnitude of climatic change) of native (black
682 circles) and non-native species (gray triangles) given as posterior mean values (and 95% CIs) for the
683 parameters of the hierarchical analyses. The maximum effect size is indicative of the maximum change in
684 performance with climate change whereas a lower half saturation constant indicates greater sensitivity to
685 increasing magnitude. Parameters were estimated at the overall, system, and driver-within-system levels
686 separately for negative and positive responses to altered climatic conditions for terrestrial (T) and aquatic
687 (A) species. Asterisks denote statistically significant differences between natives and non-native species.

688

689 **Figure 4** Observed (symbols) and predicted effect size (mean middle lines, and 95% PI lower and upper
690 lines) as a function of magnitude of climate-change treatment. Responses were analyzed separately for (a)
691 negative and (b) positive responses of native (black circles and solid lines) and non-native species (gray
692 triangles and dashed lines).

693

694 **TABLES**

695

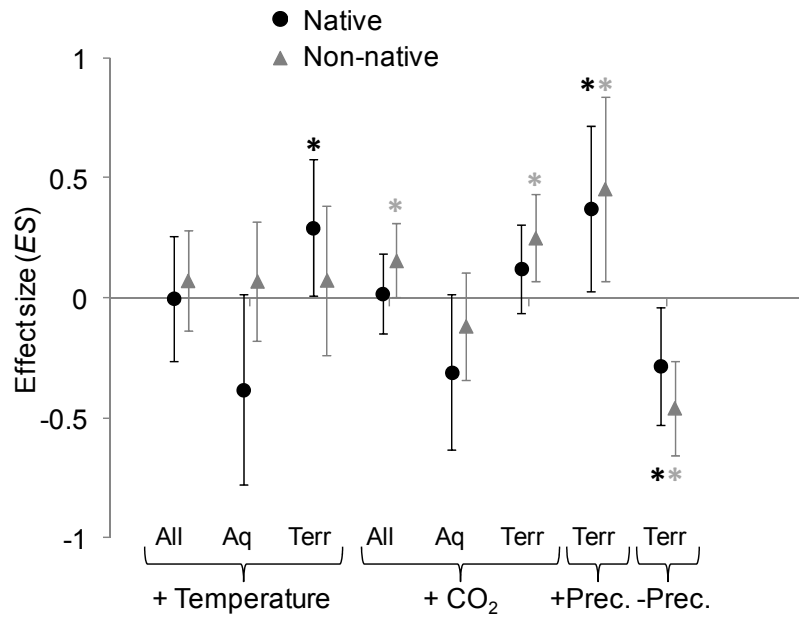
696 **Table 1** Sample sizes for the traditional meta-analysis of performance responses to climate change (with
 697 difference-to-mean ratio *ES*) presented in Figures 1 and 2. Studies, as defined by independence of
 698 controls, were the unit of replication used in the analyses. Distribution of life forms is given as the
 699 percentage of studies for each driver and system combination focused on plants; the rest of the studies are
 700 of animals.

701

Climate Change Driver	Papers (<i>N</i>) / Studies		Native Species (<i>N</i>) / Non-native Species (<i>N</i>)		Life Form Distribution (% Studies of Plants)	
	Aquatic	Terrestrial	Aquatic	Terrestrial	Aquatic	Terrestrial
+ Temperature	13 / 20	23 / 26	24 / 17	68 / 64	5%	88%
+ CO ₂	5 / 8	19 / 23	5 / 5	58 / 42	38%	100%
+ Precipitation	-	18 / 23	-	43 / 26	-	100%
- Precipitation	-	30 / 35	-	43 / 37	-	97%

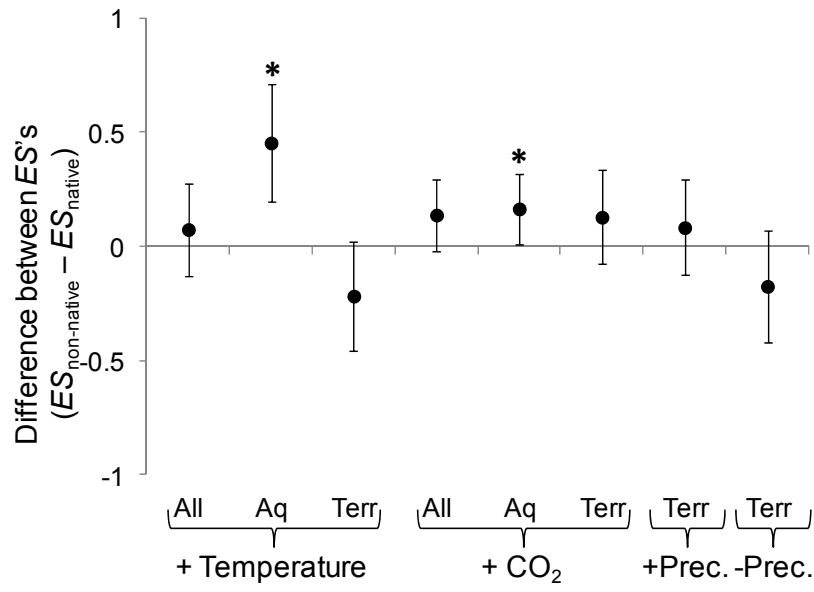
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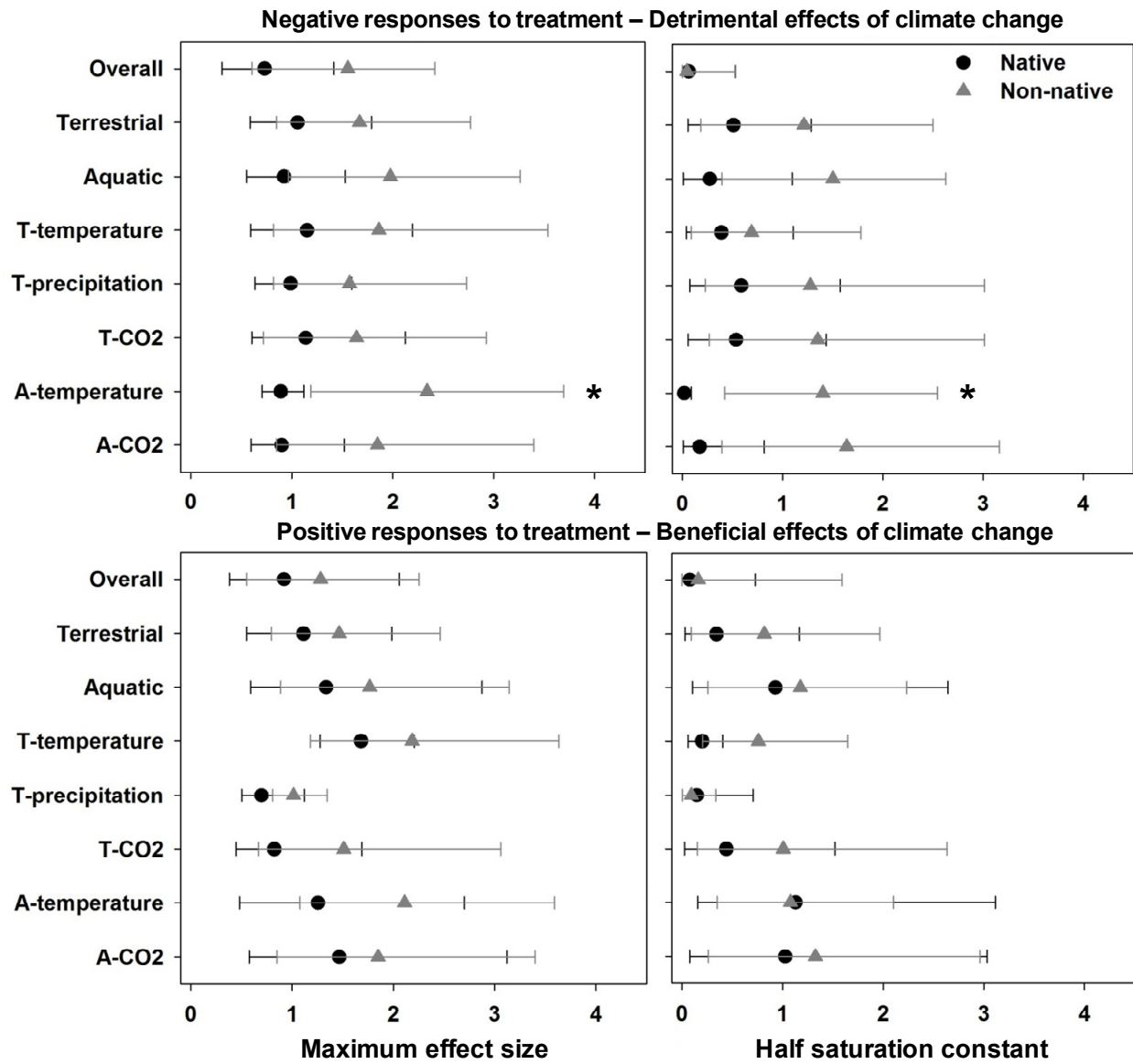
704 **Figure 1**

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707 **Figure 2**

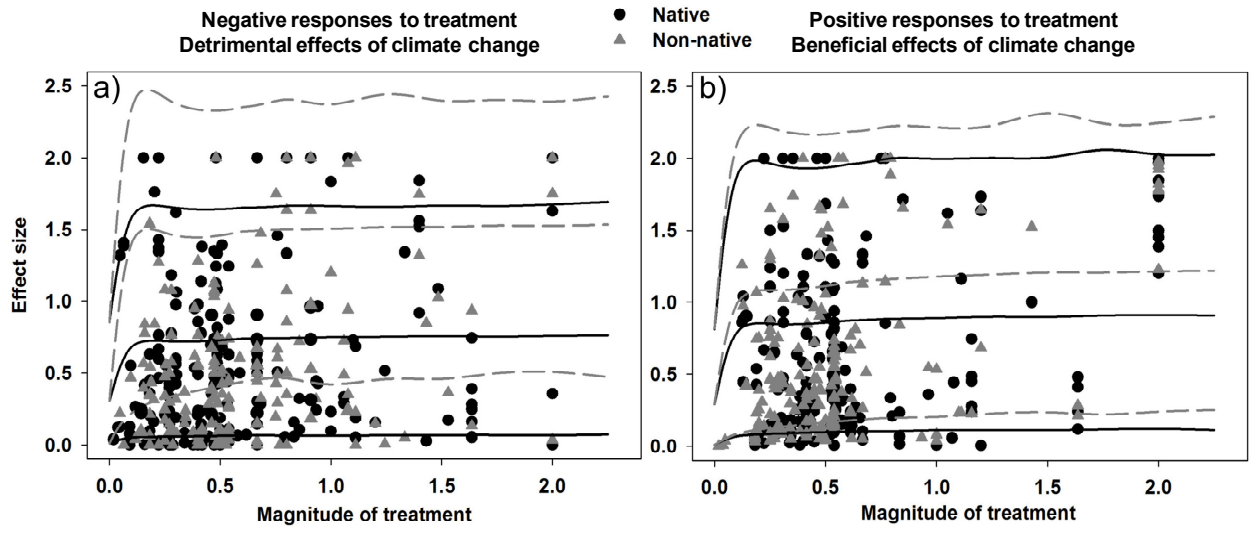
709 **Figure 3**



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712 **Figure 4**



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