

Sensitivity to ocean acidification parallels natural pCO₂ gradients experienced by Arctic copepods under winter sea ice

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The Arctic Ocean already experiences areas of low pH and high CO₂, and it is expected to be most rapidly affected by future ocean acidification (OA). Copepods comprise the dominant Arctic zooplankton; hence, their responses to OA have important implications for Arctic ecosystems, yet there is little data on their current under-ice winter ecology on which to base future monitoring or make predictions about climate-induced change. Here, we report results from Arctic under-ice investigations of copepod natural distributions associated with late-winter carbonate chemistry environmental data and their response to manipulated pCO₂ conditions (OA exposures). Our data reveal that species and life stage sensitivities to manipulated OA conditions were correlated with their vertical migration behavior and with their natural exposures to different pCO₂ ranges. Vertically migrating adult *Calanus* spp. crossed a pCO₂ range of >140 μatm daily and showed only minor responses to manipulated high CO₂. *Oithona similis*, which remained in the surface waters and experienced a pCO₂ range of <75 μatm, showed significantly reduced adult and nauplii survival in high CO₂ experiments. These results support the relatively untested hypothesis that the natural range of pCO₂ experienced by an organism determines its sensitivity to future OA and highlight that the globally important copepod species, *Oithona* spp., may be more sensitive to future high pCO₂ conditions compared with the more widely studied larger copepods.

climate change | diel vertical migration | ecophysiology | pH response

Ocean acidification (OA) has been highlighted as one of the most pervasive human impacts on the ocean (1). However, observational datasets that link oceanic carbonate chemistry with biotic responses on which to ground predictions of OA impacts remain limited, especially in the most susceptible and rapidly changing ocean, the Arctic (2). Recent observations indicate that several locations in the Arctic already experience seasonal undersaturation with respect to aragonite, concomitantly with elevated pCO₂ and lowered pH conditions (3), and such incidences are predicted to increase as OA progresses (4). However, knowledge of current seasonal and interannual variability in carbonate system parameters for the Arctic Ocean, particularly under winter sea ice, remains limited. Furthermore, information about the ecology of organisms that live in Arctic waters is primarily restricted to summer studies, with only a few investigations being conducted during the ice-covered winter period (5). Hence, predicting how organisms and ecosystems respond to OA is currently restricted to studies from subarctic and/or ice-free Arctic systems because of the technical difficulties and costs involved in sampling remote ice-associated Arctic locations. Given that the Arctic is recognized as a “bellwether” for global OA processes (2) and that polar species are potentially more sensitive to these changes due to their reduced metabolic scope (6), this lack of data on Arctic under-ice zooplankton responses to changes in current and future carbonate chemistry represents

a serious knowledge gap and limits predictive modeling capabilities of future scenarios.

Copepods generally make up the dominant zooplankton of Arctic waters, exerting significant influences on primary production and pelagic fisheries (e.g., ref. 7). Due to their large body size, high lipid content, and dominant biomass, calanoid copepods, in particular, are an important high-quality food source for many pelagic Arctic fish (8, 9); hence, their responses to OA have important implications for Arctic ecosystems. Copepods have a mainly chitinous exoskeleton, so they are not as vulnerable to calcium carbonate undersaturation as other calcifying Arctic organisms, such as pteropods (10). However, evidence for impacts of elevated CO₂ have been demonstrated for a number of temperate copepod species and life history stages (11–13) [although only one study (11) showed responses occurring at levels projected for the year 2100], whereas others, including temperate calanoids, appear more resilient (14, 15). OA impacts are most likely to occur as a result of increased energetic costs of maintaining homeostasis of physiological processes [e.g., acid–base balance (16)] under elevated CO₂ conditions, with resultant shifts in growth, fecundity, and survival, yet these responses remain relatively understudied for this ecologically important group. During the Arctic winter, there is low food availability; therefore, overcoming negative OA impacts through more energy

Significance

The Arctic Ocean is a bellwether for ocean acidification, yet few direct Arctic studies have been carried out and limited observations exist, especially in winter. We present unique under-ice physicochemical data showing the persistence of a mid water column area of high CO₂ and low pH through late winter, Zooplankton data demonstrating that the dominant copepod species are distributed across these different physicochemical conditions, and empirical data demonstrating that these copepods show sensitivity to pCO₂ that parallels the range of natural pCO₂ they experience through their daily vertical migration behavior. Our data, collected as part of the Catlin Arctic Survey, provide unique insight into the link between environmental variability, behavior, and an organism's physiological tolerance to CO₂ in key Arctic biota.

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Table 1. Seawater (under-ice) conditions from sampled depths for the period March 28–April 25, 2011

Seawater parameter	0–10 m	50 m	100 m	200 m
Temperature, °C	-1.672 ± 0.008	-1.460 ± 0.006	-1.270 ± 0.014	-0.253 ± 0.066
Salinity	30.57 ± 0.14	31.79 ± 0.06	32.99 ± 0.08	34.60 ± 0.33
DIC, $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	$2,044.7 \pm 13.1$	$2,109.3 \pm 7.7$	$2,180.1 \pm 11.1$	$2,193.9 \pm 1.4$
TA, $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	$2,156.4 \pm 11.5$	$2,200.1 \pm 6.6$	$2,242.9 \pm 0.4$	$2,282.3 \pm 2.5$
pH, total	8.116 ± 0.026	8.024 ± 0.022	7.906 ± 0.039	7.952 ± 0.007
pCO ₂ , μatm	308.7 ± 20.1	391.6 ± 20.9	528.4 ± 50.6	472.9 ± 8.5
Ω Calcite	2.11 ± 0.12	1.81 ± 0.09	1.48 ± 0.12	1.74 ± 0.04
Ω Aragonite	1.31 ± 0.07	1.14 ± 0.06	0.93 ± 0.08	1.10 ± 0.02
HCO ₃ ⁻ , $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	$1,937.4 \pm 14.8$	$2,007.5 \pm 9.0$	$2,082.7 \pm 13.0$	$2,088.4 \pm 2.6$
CO ₃ ²⁻ , $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	86.1 ± 4.7	75.3 ± 3.6	62.2 ± 5.4	75.6 ± 1.9

Values are the average \pm SD (0–10 m is the average of samples taken immediately under the ice at 3 m and at 10 m). Measured values were temperature, salinity, DIC, and TA. The pH, pCO₂, calcite and aragonite saturation states, and bicarbonate and carbonate ion concentrations were all calculated, using CO₂sys, from temperature, salinity, DIC, and TA.

intake (17) may not be possible for copepods that are present in late winter or for nonfeeding, early life stages.

Previous work has suggested that organism sensitivity to stress can be inferred from a combination of knowledge of the organism's ecology in relation to the variability of its environment (e.g., refs. 18, 19), with the hypothesis being that organisms will have more effective mechanisms to cope with stress if they frequently experience a more variable environment. One example of this hypothesis for pelagic zooplankton comes from knowledge of mesozooplankton (20) distributions in relation to oxygen minimum zones (OMZs), and thus their sensitivity to low oxygen (20). Childress (21) showed the midwater migratory copepod *Gaussia princeps* had lower metabolic rates during the day when it was found at depth in the OMZ. More recently, Maas et al. (22)

showed that pteropods that migrate vertically through a tropical OMZ reduced their metabolic rate under low oxygen and low temperature conditions in the laboratory. Thus, under oxygen stress, organisms previously exposed to low oxygen conditions have mechanisms, including metabolic depression or consuming more protein, that allow them to survive. With respect to OA, high CO₂ and low pH conditions are often also found in the OMZs, and Maas et al. (23) showed that nonmigratory pteropods were affected during OA experiments, whereas migratory pteropods showed no response to high CO₂, although this result may be confounded by the temperature at which the experiments were conducted.

Here, we examine the natural distributions of the dominant Arctic copepods found under winter sea ice in relation to the current seawater carbonate chemistry conditions and compare

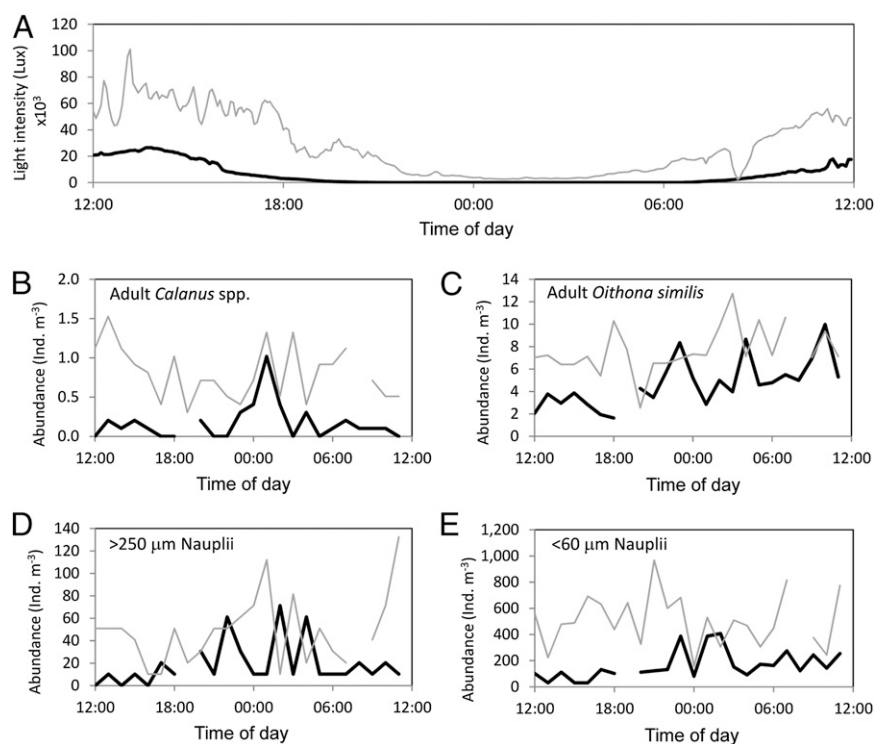


Fig. 1. Twenty-four-hour time series in the surface water (0–50 m) at the CIB over the periods March 20–21, 2011 (thick black line) and April 23–24, 2011 (thin gray line) for surface light intensity (lux) (A), adult *Calanus* spp. abundance [Individual (Ind.) m^{-3}] (B), adult *O. similis* abundance (Ind. m^{-3}) (C), large (>250 μm) nauplii abundance (Ind. m^{-3}) (D), and small (<60 μm) nauplii abundance (Ind. m^{-3}) (E).

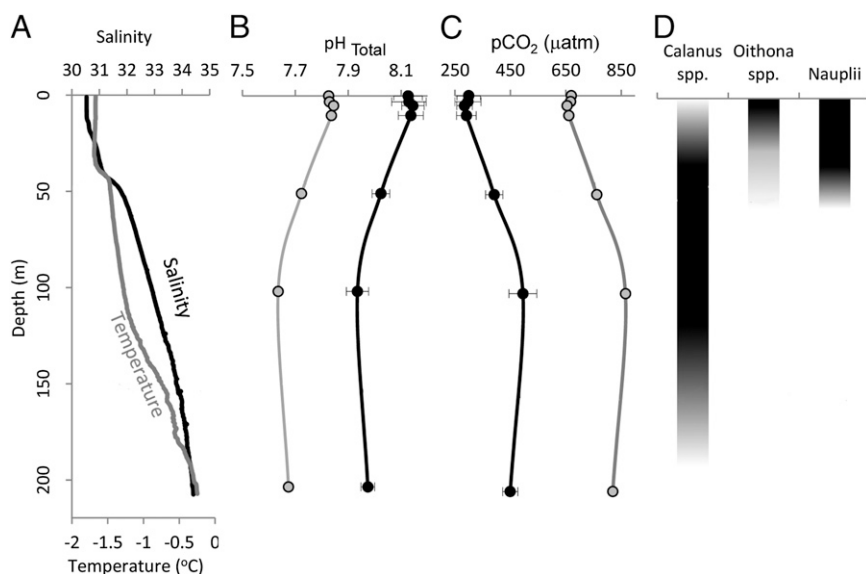


Fig. 3. Temperature (°C) and salinity profiles through the water column at the CIB (A); water column profile of pH from the 2011 data (mean \pm SD; black circles) calculated from DIC and alkalinity and the projected pH for year 2100 (gray circles), assuming a 0.4-unit decrease across the 200-m water column (B); water column profile of pCO₂ from the 2011 data (mean \pm SD; black circles) calculated from DIC and alkalinity and the projected pCO₂ for year 2100 (gray circles), assuming a doubling of atmospheric CO₂ (C); and illustration of the depth of vertical migration of copepod species observed at the CIB and investigated in the OA experiments (D).

lasted all night. However, in late April (during the second 24-h investigation), the day length had increased to 20 h and civil twilight persisted throughout the night (Fig. 1 A–D and Table S1). These changes in light duration and intensity were reflected in a corresponding shift in copepod abundances beneath the sea ice (Fig. 1 A–D). Adult *Calanus* copepods, although present in relatively low numbers, had a distinct peak in abundance throughout the hours of darkness during the March sampling (Fig. 1A), suggesting they were vertically migrating through the halocline from deeper waters (>50 m) at this time (compare with Fig. 2). In April, adult *Calanus* abundance increased in the surface layers (Fig. 1A) and individuals were present over the whole 24-h period, suggesting vertical migration had become less pronounced, or at least less structured (i.e., at specific times of the day) as the length of darkness decreased (compare with Fig. 2). Nauplii numbers had also increased, with nearly a 10-fold increase in small nauplii within the surface layers in later April compared with March (Fig. 2).

Physicochemical conditions demonstrated that the water column under the ice had distinct layers. From immediately under the ice (0 m) to 40–50 m was the polar mixed layer (PML, or surface layer), a cold, fresh, low-density layer of water. From 40 to 50 m to about 120 m was the upper halocline layer (UHL), a layer increasing in temperature and salinity, and below this was the lower halocline layer (LHL) (Fig. 3 and Table 1). Data here are compared with PML, UHL, and LHL end members in a study by Jones and Anderson (30). With increasing depth, the pCO₂ increased to a maximum (maximum pCO₂ = 564.2 μ atm) and pH decreased to a minimum (minimum pH = 7.87) at around 100 m within the UHL. This water circulates from the Pacific, where a high CO₂ signal comes from remineralization of organic matter. The PML surface waters had low pCO₂ and high pH conditions (minimum pCO₂ = 240 μ atm, maximum pH = 8.21).

Clear differences in sensitivity to short-term pCO₂ exposures were observed between the large *Calanus* (size range: 3–8 mm) compared with the smaller *O. similis* (size range: 0.5–1 mm) and the nauplii larvae. Elevated pCO₂ levels had no significant impact on survival of the adult *Calanus* (Fig. 4A; $F_{df=2} = 3.33$, $P = 0.064$). In contrast, the adult *O. similis* was found to have a significant reduction in survival in both the 700- μ atm and 1,000-

μ atm treatments (Fig. 4B; $F_{df=2} = 30.74$, $P = 0.001$). Both size classes of nauplii were also found to be sensitive to the high pCO₂: Survival in the larger nauplii was significantly reduced in the 700- μ atm and 1,000- μ atm treatments compared with the ambient treatment at 370 μ atm (Fig. 4C; $F_{df=2} = 4.07$, $P = 0.028$). The smaller nauplii showed a similar response but with significant decreases in survival between all treatments (Fig. 4D; $F_{df=2} = 22.19$, $P < 0.001$).

Discussion

The 24-h zooplankton data presented here, which align with previous studies, show that adult calanoid copepods perform diel migrations under sea ice during the Arctic winter (8) but cease this synchronized migration under the Arctic midnight sun (5); instead, they undergo continuous individual movement up and down between the surface and >200 m, which results in little observed change in the median depth of the overall biomass (31, 32). *Calanus* spp. have previously been found throughout the water column depending on stage. In Arctic domains of the Norwegian Sea, progressively deeper migration appeared to occur with increasing calanoid stage, such that copepods at young calanoid stages (CI–CIII) were generally confined to the upper 30 m during both day and night, whereas CV stage copepods and adult females displayed the most significant migrations (33). Our data support this further, with the calanoid nauplii stages appearing to reside mainly in the upper 50 m throughout all our sampling points. In contrast, no evidence was found in our data of adult *O. similis* or their nauplii making similar migrations during the sampling period, because they were observed consistently throughout both 24-h sampling periods in the upper 50 m, and data from additional trawls to 200 m confirmed the lack of *O. similis* and nauplii below the surface waters (Fig. 2). Again, these observations align with previous summer Arctic studies showing *O. similis* is most prevalent in the UML, with abundance positively correlated to UML temperature (34). This behavior is also observed in *Oithona* spp. found in the Antarctic (e.g., ref. 35).

The associated under-ice water column carbonate chemistry data (Table 2) reveal that in the surface layers (0–50 m), pCO₂ is relatively low (<330 μ atm), with correspondingly high pH (pH

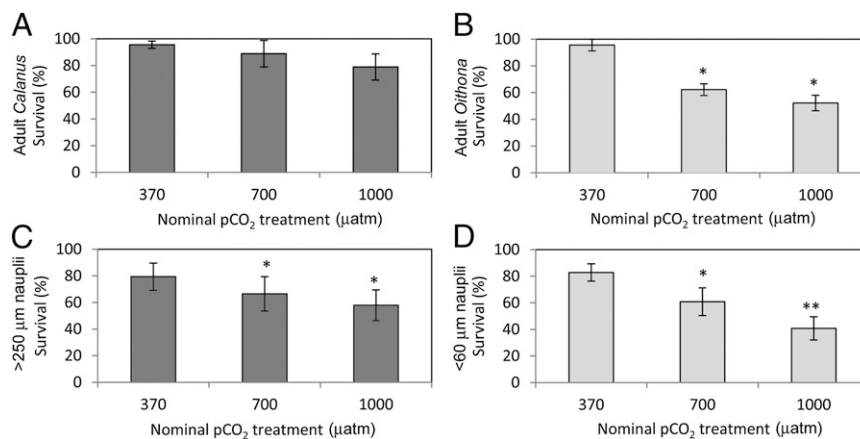


Fig. 4. Survival response [survival (%)] for the dominant under-ice copepod adults and nauplii to short-term (7 d) OA exposure experiments: adult *Calanus* spp. (A), adult *O. similis* (B), large (>250 μm) nauplii (C), and small (<60 μm) nauplii (D). Values are the mean ± 95% confidence interval. An asterisk represents a significant difference from the ambient (370 μatm) treatment, and a double asterisk represents a significant difference from the midwater (700 μatm) treatment.

8.10; Fig. 3 A–C). As depth increases, the accumulation and remineralization of organic matter (36), stratification (37), and brine release (38) cause pCO₂ to increase significantly to >550 μatm at about 100 m, with correspondingly low pH (pH 7.87), even during this late-winter period. This mid water column area of high pCO₂ has previously only been reported during the summer period (3). Together with zooplankton data, this demonstrates that vertical migration through the halocline exposes adult *Calanus* to a daily pH range of >0.15 units and a daily pCO₂ range of >140 μatm (Fig. 3 A–C). Remaining above the halocline exposes *O. similis* and nauplii to a much smaller average daily pH range of about 0.08 units and to a pCO₂ range of about 73 μatm (Fig. 3 A–C and Table 2).

These experiences appear to be reflected in the results from the manipulated OA experiments: The large *Calanus* spp. were relatively robust to short-term exposures to manipulated OA conditions predicted for the year 2300, with no impact on survival observed. Conversely, *O. similis* adults and nauplii, as well as *Calanus* nauplii, which experience much narrower physicochemical gradients, had significantly lower survival and seemingly greater sensitivity to elevated pCO₂. Although data for this species from other regions remains limited, studies to date do not suggest *Oithona* spp. undergo the diel vertical migrations of other larger copepod species but dominate surface waters (e.g., ref. 39). *Oithona* spp. are considered one of the most important and abundant copepods occurring globally within the epipelagic zone. Their occurrence in the surface waters means they have been exposed to relatively low levels of CO₂ (high pH) evolutionarily; therefore, their relative sensitivity to changes in CO₂ conditions warrants further investigation into the global impact of OA on these small copepods.

Further, to assess the wider relevance of our findings, we conducted a review of the current literature on OA responses of copepod species from other regions (incorporating only studies using a year 2100 OA relevant level of pH or pCO₂) and compared these data with the existing knowledge of their vertical migration behaviors (summarized in Table 3). This clearly highlights that, as we found in the high Arctic, the species and life history stages that are known to exhibit vertical migration behavior are generally reported to be robust to predicted OA conditions. This literature review also reveals a general lack of studies on species that do not undergo diel vertical migrations, such as *Oithona*, and on small species, that are more difficult to maintain in laboratories. Further, there seems a lack of consideration for the environment from which these organisms, used in experiments, were obtained. The only other study of a nonverti-

cally migrating copepod species that we found in the literature was that by Fitzer et al. (11) on the benthic copepod *Tisbe*, who found them to be sensitive to year 2100 relevant OA conditions over multiple generations; however, these responses were long-term responses rather than short-term responses to variability on a daily scale. Our finding for *O. similis* and those of Fitzer et al. (11) suggest that more OA studies should focus on species and/or life history stages with more restricted spatial ranges, and therefore potentially narrower extant natural pCO₂ exposure conditions

The hypothesis that experience influences sensitivity could indeed explain the high level of variability found in previous investigations into the impacts of pCO₂ on copepods, with some species (particularly early life stages) being more sensitive (e.g., refs. 11–13) and others, including temperate calanoids, appearing more resilient (e.g., refs. 14, 40). The influence of natural variation of physicochemical conditions has recently been studied in the copepod *Acartia tonsa* along the upwelling off the southern coast of Chile (41), where a clear negative influence of low pH (pH 7.7) sea waters on copepod reproductive outcomes was observed. An additional study using much higher pCO₂ levels than predicted for OA (deep ocean CO₂ storage scenarios) but comparing high CO₂ responses of copepods from different depths and regions (42) also supports the idea that experience, in terms of natural physicochemical conditions, influences the CO₂ response, because the study clearly showed a greater short-term tolerance to high pCO₂ in deeper water copepods than observed

Table 2. Experimental conditions for the three OA treatments (mean ± SD)

Seawater parameter	Ambient CO ₂	Mid-CO ₂	High CO ₂
Temperature, °C	−1.67	−1.68	−1.69
Salinity	30.89 ± 1.41	29.97 ± 0.59	29.38 ± 0.48
DIC, μmol·kg ^{−1}	2,067.5 ± 2.3	2,183.1 ± 9.7	2,156.2 ± 12.8
TA, μmol·kg ^{−1}	2,156.4 ± 9.3	2,201.9 ± 3.8	2,122.5 ± 29.9
pH, total	8.04 ± 0.03	7.80 ± 0.05	7.60 ± 0.09
pCO ₂ , μatm	371 ± 26.7	698 ± 76.8	1,092 ± 202.8
Ω Calcite	1.82 ± 0.10	1.08 ± 0.12	0.67 ± 0.14
Ω Aragonite	1.13 ± 0.06	0.67 ± 0.08	0.41 ± 0.09

In situ seawater temperature (°C) was measured in the ice hole, and salinity, DIC, and TA were measured in the header tanks. Measured parameters were used to calculate, using CO₂sys, the additional parameters: pH (total) in situ temperature (°C), pCO₂, and saturation states for calcite (Ω Calcite) and aragonite (Ω Aragonite).

Table 3. Summary of previous studies on copepod OA responses and whether the species used are known to exhibit diel vertical migration

Author	Species	pH range	Sensitivity to year 2100 level					Adult DVM?	
			EP	H	N	C	Adult		
This study	<i>Calanus glacialis/hyperborealis</i>	8.04–7.60			√		x	Hays (51), Falk-Petersen et al. (52)	√
This study	<i>Oithona similis</i>	8.04–7.60			√		√	Coyle and Pinchuk (53)	x
Weydmann et al. (54)	<i>Calanus glacialis</i>	8.20–6.90	x					Falk-Petersen et al. (55)	√
Fitzer et al. (56)	<i>Tisbe battagliai</i>	8.06–7.67			√	√	√	Hicks and Coull (57)	x
Kurihara and Ishmatsu (58)	<i>Acartia tsuensis</i>	8.23–7.31*	x	x	x	x	x	Sakaguchi et al. (59)	?
Kurihara et al. (60)	<i>Acartia steueri</i>	8.09–6.82*	x				x	No data	?
Kurihara et al. (60)	<i>Acartia erythraea</i>	8.09–6.82*	x	x	x		x	Tang et al. (61)	√
Vehmaa et al. (62)	<i>Acartia bilifosa</i>	8.17–7.77	x					White et al. (63)	√
Li and Gao (64)	<i>Centropages tenuiremis</i>	8.18–7.83					†	Boyd et al. (65)	√
Mayor et al. (66)	<i>Calanus helgolandicus</i>	8.08–7.77	x	x				Williams (67)	√
McConville et al. (68)	<i>Centropages typicus</i>	8.04–7.78	x	x				White et al. (63)	√
McConville et al. (68)	<i>Temora longicornis</i>	8.04–7.78	x	x				Harding et al. (69)	√
Pedersen et al. (70)	<i>Calanus finmarchicus</i>	8.20–6.85*		x	x	x		Falkenhaus et al. (71)	√

C, copepodite stages; EP, egg production; H, hatching; N, nauplii stages; x, no response to OA or does not exhibit diel vertical migration (DVM); √, response to OA or does exhibit DVM; ?, no data available.

*No year 2100 pCO₂ scenario was used in the cited experiment; however, no response was recorded for the more extreme experimental pCO₂ scenario.

†Physiological adjustment to conditions was observed, but no clear negative health impact was associated with this change.

for shallower water species, which, again, aligns with our findings. Indeed, the two *Calanus* spp. investigated here, *C. glacialis* and *C. hyperboreus*, also have different life histories and vertical migrations. Although both are known to pass from at least 200 m up to the surface, thereby being exposed to the middepth high CO₂, the larger *C. hyperboreus* is known to occur at depths >1,000–3,000 m (43), whereas the slightly smaller *C. glacialis* occurs at depths between 200 and 500 m (44). Therefore, the two species will experience different environmental regimes and, consequently, we would expect them to have differing sensitivities, with *C. glacialis* being more sensitive.

Underlying the size and behavioral differences between *Calanus* and *Oithona* are differences in their physiologies. Any shifts in physicochemical gradients in seawater can have a significant impact on gas exchange in small organisms (45). In pelagic copepods, gas exchange occurs across the integument and hindgut, and only larger adult *Calanus* species have a heart (46). The presence of a more developed cardiovascular system in *Calanus* species is likely related to the need for better internal CO₂ transport to support their more active lifestyles (47). *C. hyperboreus*, for example, has a 13-fold smaller surface area-to-volume (SA/V) ratio than *O. similis*. A greater SA/V ratio increases CO₂ diffusion rates; hence, smaller organisms generally have low extracellular pCO₂ levels that reflect the external (seawater) pCO₂ conditions that are maintained low by the large diffusion gradient, (i.e., if CO₂ is produced internally, the lower seawater pCO₂ allows rapid removal by diffusion). Larger, active organisms have higher extracellular pCO₂ levels due to less efficient diffusion resulting from a smaller SA/V ratio, and hence often use alternative mechanisms to remove CO₂. An increase in seawater pCO₂ will therefore cause a greater relative change in extracellular pCO₂ of smaller organisms than in larger organisms (48). Hence, smaller organisms, such as *Oithona* spp., are hypothesized to be more sensitive to OA than larger organisms.

Furthermore, crustaceans are generally able to buffer short-term exposure to high CO₂ through increasing hemolymph HCO₃⁻ levels, but ionoregulating ability differs greatly between species and is energetically expensive (e.g., ref. 6). More active animals with higher natural extracellular pCO₂ levels should already possess efficient ionoregulatory machinery for acid–base regulation for dealing with metabolic CO₂; hence, such animals are proposed to be better placed to cope with any change in external pCO₂ (48). Because adult calanoids actively undergo

large vertical migrations, their acid–base regulatory physiology might be predicted to be more enhanced than that of *O. similis*, which does not undertake long-distance migrations (49). The physiological constraints for a small organism are likely to play a role in its behavior, and therefore in determining its sensitivity to OA.

Traditionally, larvae have been considered much poorer at acid–base regulation than their adult counterparts, possibly accounting for the high sensitivity to OA observed across our nauplii experiments, yet this remains poorly understood for most species. Nonmigrating nauplii stages that inhabit stable physicochemical conditions may simply not “waste” energetic investment in expensive, unnecessary ion regulation mechanisms, making them vulnerable to changes in conditions.

Our study clearly highlights the importance of understanding the in situ environmental conditions and variability, together with organism behavior and life history strategy, to assess the vulnerability and sensitivity of Arctic species to a rapidly changing environment. Short-term experiments cannot simply be scaled-up for century-scale responses of organisms to OA, but they do provide us with an understanding of a species scope for acclimation. Importantly, different populations, with local adaptation, may have different phenotypic plasticity underpinning their ability to perform under near-future pCO₂ scenarios. Our findings imply that migratory zooplankton, by virtue of their daily exposure to a wide range of pCO₂ conditions, might not require evolutionary adaptation to future pCO₂ scenarios. In contrast, nonmigratory zooplankton are more likely to experience local extinction in the absence of evolutionary adaptation (50). Direct Arctic studies are therefore required to assess organism and species sensitivities rather than assuming that responses will be the same as those from tropical or midlatitude studies. Certainly, ubiquitous species in their adult form, living across a range of physicochemical conditions, are likely capable of surviving change, but the apparent bottleneck to long-term species survival is yet again found at the early life stage. Larvae of many marine organisms are released at very specific times to coincide with favorable environmental or food conditions, and we show here that even a short-term shift in the pCO₂ conditions results in decreased survival of nauplii. Finally, the overall spatial range of pCO₂ conditions will change into the future, thus exposing organisms to even greater values than the surface averages often used in experiments.

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