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Oxidative and interactive challenge of cadmium and ocean acidification on the smooth scallop Flexopecten glaber.

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(Article begins on next page)

1	Oxidative and interactive challenge of cadmium and ocean acidification on the smooth scallop
2	Flexopecten glaber
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### 25 Abstract

26 Ocean acidification (OA) may affect sensitivity of marine organisms to metal pollution modulating chemical bioavailability, bioaccumulation and biological responsiveness of several 27 cellular pathways. In this study, the smooth scallop *Flexopecten glaber* was exposed to various 28 combinations of reduced pH (pH/pCO<sub>2</sub> 7.4/ $\sim$ 3000 µatm) and Cd (20 µg/L). The analyses on cadmium 29 uptake were integrated with those of a wide battery of biomarkers including metallothioneins, single 30 31 antioxidant defenses and total oxyradical scavenging capacity in digestive gland and gills, lysosomal membrane stability and onset of genotoxic damage in haemocytes. Reduced pH slightly enhanced 32 concentration of Cd in scallops tissues, but no effects were measured in terms of metallothioneins. 33 34 Induction of some antioxidants by Cd and/or low pH in the digestive gland was not reflected in variations of the total oxyradical scavenging capacity, while the investigated stressors caused a certain 35 inhibition of antioxidants and reduction of the scavenging capacity toward peroxyl radical in the gills. 36 37 Lysosomal membrane stability and onset of genotoxic damages showed high sensitivity with possible synergistic effects of the investigated factors. The overall results suggest that indirect effects of ocean 38 39 acidification on metals accumulation and toxicity are tissue-specific and modulate oxidative balance 40 through different mechanisms.

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*Keywords*: Oxidative stress; ocean acidification; metal contamination; bioaccumulation; biomarkers;
scallops

### 44 1. Introduction

45 World oceans have absorbed about the 30% of anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere causing changes in the inorganic carbon system equilibrium (Le Quéré et al., 2009). 46 The consequent ocean acidification (OA) is responsible for the continuous reduction of ocean pH, 47 dropped by 0.1 units since the beginning of industrial era (Gattuso and Lavigne, 2009), and expected 48 to further decrease by 0.14 to 0.35 units depending on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions scenarios (Caldeira and Wickett, 49 50 2005). Scientific literature provides wide evidence that future projections of ocean  $pH/pCO_2$  will affect health status of marine organisms by altering key physiological processes, like calcification 51 52 rates (Cerrano et al., 2013; Dupont et al., 2010; Gazeau et al., 2007; Jokiel et al., 2008), acid-base 53 balance and ionic homeostasis (Gutowska et al., 2010; Miles et al., 2007; Spicer et al., 2007), metabolism (Lannig et al., 2010; Pan et al., 2015; Stumpp et al., 2012), immune response (Bibby et 54 55 al., 2008; Hernroth et al., 2011, 2012, 2016), larval development (Dupont et al., 2008; Ellis et al., 56 2009; Kurihara et al., 2007; Stumpp et al., 2011) and oxidative stress responses (Benedetti et al., 2016; Freitas et al., 2016; Nardi et al., 2017; Pimentel et al., 2015; Rokitta et al., 2012; Soriano-57 58 Santiago et al., 2012; Tomanek et al., 2011).

59 Beside the direct effects, there is growing interest for the potential interaction of OA with other 60 environmental stressors, such as the high levels of metal contamination in coastal environments 61 (Ivanina and Sokolova, 2015). In this respect, OA is supposed to increase the ionic and bioavailable fraction of certain metals like copper ( $Cu^{2+}$ ), which typically form strong complexes with carbonate 62 (CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>) and hydroxide (OH<sup>-</sup>) ions (Millero et al., 2009). These model predictions have been 63 64 confirmed by some experimental evidence revealing that high  $pCO_2/low$  pH regimes can increase 65 release of metals from polluted sediments (Ardelan et al., 2009; Ardelan and Steinnes, 2010; de Orte 66 et al., 2014a, 2014b) and enhance their bioaccumulation (Duckworth et al., 2017; Götze et al., 2014; Ivanina et al., 2014; Lacoue-Labarthe et al., 2009, 2011; López et al., 2010; Rodríguez-Romero et 67 al., 2014). Synergistic effects of high pCO<sub>2</sub>/low pH and metal exposure were recently reported on 68 several cellular responses of marine invertebrates (Götze et al., 2014; Ivanina et al., 2013, 2015; 69

Lewis *et al.*, 2013), including the antioxidant status and the onset of oxidative stress (Benedetti *et al.*,
2016; Nardi *et al.*, 2017; Ricevuto *et al.*, 2015, 2016; Siddiqui *et al.*, 2015; ), which is one of the most
relevant pathways by which trace elements exert their toxicity through a sophisticated array of
molecular and cellular effects (Regoli and Giuliani, 2014).

74 To provide new insights on the interactions between ocean acidification and metal 75 contamination, this study investigated whether high  $pCO_2/low pH$  may influence bioaccumulation 76 and sub-lethal effects of cadmium in the smooth scallop *Flexopecten glaber*. This species, widely 77 distributed throughout the Mediterranean Sea, has been recently addressed to be a key commercial 78 species, especially in Northwestern Adriatic Sea where it represents about 74% of shellfish fishery 79 (Marčeta et al., 2016, Mazzoldi et al., 2014; Pujolar et al., 2010). Scallops are widely used in 80 ecotoxicological studies, they are typically characterized by high basal concentrations of cadmium in 81 the digestive gland (Bustamante et al., 2002; Mauri et al., 1990; Regoli et al., 1998, 2000, 2002) and 82 they are recently addressed as highly sensitive to ocean acidification (Andersen et al., 2013; Cooley et al., 2015; Schalkhausser et al., 2013; White et al., 2013). The effects of ocean acidification can be 83 84 exacerbated in shallow coastal and estuarine waters due to freshwaters inputs, which influence 85 carbonate chemistry, nutrients levels, organic matter degradation and pollutants concentrations 86 (Nikinmaa, 2013; Wallace et al., 2014; Wong et al., 2014). In this respect, scallops were exposed to 87 various combinations of Cd and high pCO<sub>2</sub>/low pH, and a complex network of cellular responses was investigated including levels of metallothioneins, variations of antioxidant defenses and total 88 antioxidant capacity in both digestive gland and gills, lysosomal alterations and onset of genotoxic 89 90 damages in haemocytes. The overall significance of biomarkers responses was synthetized in a 91 cellular hazard index through a quantitative hazard model (Sediqualsoft) which considers the number 92 and magnitude of observed variations, giving a different weight to each biomarker based on the 93 toxicological relevance of biological endpoints (Benedetti et al., 2012; Piva et al., 2011). Results 94 obtained in the present study were expected to contribute to the growing knowledge on the interactive 95 effects of ocean acidification and metals focusing on sensitivity of different tissues in a widely

96 distributed, potentially vulnerable but still poorly investigated species.

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#### 98 2. Materials and Methods

## 99 2.1 Animal collection and experimental design

Scallops, *Flexopecten glaber* ( $4.5 \pm 0.5$  cm shell length), were obtained in June 2015 from a shellfish farm in an unpolluted area of Venice lagoon, Chioggia, Italy. Organisms were acclimatized for 7 days in aquaria with aerated artificial seawater (ASW; Instant Ocean®) at local environmental conditions of salinity (30 practical salinity units), temperature (20 °C) and pH<sub>NBS</sub> (8.20).

104 Scallops were then randomly assigned to one of the following treatments, each containing 20 105 organisms in 20 L: 1) control condition (CTRL), at 20°C, pH=8.20/ pCO<sub>2</sub>=~400 µatm; 2) cadmium exposure (Cd), 20°C, pH=8.20/ pCO<sub>2</sub>=~400 µatm and 20 µg/L cadmium; 3) acidification (A), 20°C, 106 pH=7.40/ pCO<sub>2</sub>=~3000 µatm; 4) acidification + Cd (A - Cd), 20°C, pH=7.40/ pCO<sub>2</sub>=~3000 µatm and 107 108 20 µg/L cadmium. Cadmium exposure was representative of a polluted but environmentally realistic scenario (Neff, 2002), while selected target pH was based on scenario RCP 8.5 and the 2014 IPCC 109 110 WGII AR5 (IPCC, 2014) where future decrease in coastal waters is predicted to be higher than in open ocean; target pH was reached by mixing ASW (pH=8.2) with small amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>-saturated 111 112 ASW as described elsewhere (Nardi et al., 2017). For each experimental condition temperature, pH 113 and salinity were measured daily, while total alkalinity (A<sub>T</sub>) was measured every three days during the experiment according to Dickson et al., 2007. Seawater carbonate parameters (pCO<sub>2</sub>, and 114 saturation state ( $\Omega$ ) for calcite and aragonite) were calculated in CO2SYS using barometric pressure 115 116 values (Pierrott et al., 2006); A<sub>T</sub>, pH, temperature, salinity values and full seawater chemistry are provided in Table 1. For calculations, we used NBS scale for seawater pH, carbonate constants from 117 118 Millero (2010), KSO<sup>-</sup><sub>4</sub> constant from Dickson et al. (2007) and concentration of silicate and phosphate from Instant Ocean® composition (0.21 µmol/kg and 0.05 µmol/kg, respectively). Water was 119 120 changed every other day, and scallops fed 12 hours prior the water change with a commercial mixture 121 of zooplankton (50-300 µm) for filter-feeding organisms.

After ten days, animals were sampled from each tank and tissues collected for chemical and biological analyses. Gills and digestive glands were excised, pooled in 5 samples (each constituted by tissues of 4 individuals), rapidly frozen in liquid nitrogen and maintained at -80°C until analyzed for cadmium content or biomarker responses. Haemolymph was withdrawn from the adductor muscle of 5 specimens and immediately used for the measurement of lysosomal membranes stability and onset of genotoxic damages.

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#### 129 2.2 Cadmium determination

Cadmium (Cd) concentrations in scallops were analyzed according to previously described 130 131 methods (Regoli et al., 2005). For each treatment, digestive glands and gills were dried at 60°C overnight and digested in a microwave digestion system (Mars CEM, CEM Corporation, Matthews 132 NC). Cd was analyzed by atomic absorption spectrophotometry (AAS) using graphite furnace 133 134 atomization and Zeeman effect (SpectrAA 300 Zeeman, Varian, Mulgrave, VIC, Australia). Quality assurance and quality control was assessed by processing blank samples and reference standard 135 material (Mussel Tissue Standard Reference Material SRM NIST-2977, National Institute of 136 137 Standards and Technology Gaithersburg, MD, USA). The concentrations obtained for the SRM were always within the 95% confidence interval of certified values. Data are expressed as µg/g dry weight 138 139 (mean values  $\pm$  standard deviation, n = 5).

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### 141 *2.3 Biomarkers responses*

Standardized protocols were used to analyze biomarkers and full methodological details are given in Supplementary Material 1 (SM1). Metallothioneins (MTs), single antioxidant defenses (catalase, glutathione S-transferases, glutathione peroxidases, glutathione reductase activities and total glutathione), total oxyradical scavenging capacity toward peroxyl radical (TOSC ROO•) and hydroxyl radical (TOSC HO•) were evaluated in digestive gland and gills. The analysis of the Total Oxyradical Scavenging Capacity (TOSC) is a reliable tool for quantitatively assess the biological

resistance to toxicity of different forms of ROS including peroxyl radicals, hydroxyl radicals and 148 149 peroxynitrite decomposition products (Regoli and Winston, 1998, 1999). The assay is based on the capability of cellular antioxidants to reduce the oxidation of  $\alpha$ -keto-y-methiolbutyric acid (KMBA) 150 151 in the presence of artificially generated oxyradicals. Compared to individual antioxidants, variations of TOSC have a greater biological relevance and prognostic value, being an impaired capability to 152 153 neutralize ROS associated to the onset of various forms of oxidative damages like lysosomal 154 dysfunctions, lipid peroxidation and genotoxic effects (Nigro et al., 2002; Camus et al., 2003; Gorbi and Regoli, 2003; Moore et al., 2006). Lysosomal membrane stability (as Neutral Red Retention 155 Time, NRRT) and onset of genotoxic effects as DNA strand breaks (Comet assay) and micronuclei 156 157 frequency (MN) were analyzed in haemocytes.

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### 159 2.4 Statistical analyses

Analysis of variance (One-way ANOVA) was used to evaluate the effects on all investigated parameters, after ensuring that all data followed the normal distribution (Shapiro-Wilk test) and that variances were homogeneous (Levene's Test). Level of significance was set to p < 0.05; *post-hoc* Tukey HSD tests were used to compare group of means. Multivariate principal component analysis (PCA) was applied to visualize the relationships among the different treatments and all statistical analyses were performed using RStudio (version 1.0.143).

For each treatment, the whole dataset of biomarkers results was summarized in a hazard index 166 elaborated through weighted criteria which discriminate different endpoints and the magnitude of 167 168 effects (Sediqualsoft, Piva et al., 2011). Within this quantitative model, each biomarker has a "weight" based on its toxicological relevance and a "threshold" of biological significant changes 169 170 which consider the possibility of biphasic responses and the different responsiveness among various 171 species and tissues. Variations measured for various biomarkers are compared to their specific thresholds and corrected for the weight and the statistical significance of the difference compared to 172 controls (for full details see Piva et al., 2011, Benedetti et al., 2012): the calculated Hazard Quotient 173

(HQ) does not include biomarkers with variations lower or equal to their threshold, while it averages or adds the summation ( $\Sigma$ ) respectively for those biomarkers with variations up to 2-fold or more than 2-fold greater than the specific threshold (Avio *et al.*, 2015; Benedetti *et al.*, 2012; Piva *et al.*, 2011; Regoli *et al.*, 2014). The model finally assigns the elaborated HQ in one of five classes of hazard, from Absent to Severe (Piva *et al.*, 2011). Whole calculations and assumptions have been fully given elsewhere (Benedetti *et al.*, 2012; Piva *et al.*, 2011).

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### 181 **3. Results**

Exposures to Cd caused an increase of metal concentrations in both digestive gland and gills of scallops with a slightly greater, although not statistically significant accumulation in organisms exposed to the metal at lower pH (Fig.1a and 1b).

185 Levels of metallothioneins were not influenced neither by Cd-exposure nor by pH-reduction, in186 the digestive gland (Fig.2a) or gills (Fig.3a).

Sensitivity of antioxidant defenses showed tissue-specificities toward the investigated factors. In 187 the digestive gland, catalase (Fig.2b) was enhanced in organisms exposed to lower pH, an effect 188 which was not further modulated by concomitant presence of Cd; higher activities were observed also 189 for GST activity and Se-dependent GPx in acidic conditions (Fig.2c and 2d), but for these enzymes 190 191 an antagonistic effect occurred during co-exposure to Cd and high pCO<sub>2</sub>/low pH; total glutathione (Fig.2g) was enhanced in all treatments involving Cd-exposure, pH reduction and their combination. 192 Variations of individual antioxidants were not reflected by any significant difference among the 193 194 experimental treatments of TOSC against both ROO• and HO• (Fig.2h and 2i).

Different interactive effects of Cd and acidification were observed on the antioxidant system of gills. The activity of GST was significantly lowered in organisms exposed to the combination of factors (Fig. 3c), while the inhibition of Se-dependent GPx caused by Cd alone was not observed when the metal was dosed at high  $pCO_2/low$  pH (fig. 3d). TOSC values toward ROO• were significantly reduced by acidification with or without Cd (Fig. 3h), but no variations were observedtoward HO• (Fig.3i).

201 Lysosomal membrane stability (Fig.4a) was significantly lowered by the co-exposure to Cd and 202 acidification, no effects appeared in terms of DNA fragmentation (Fig.4b), while MN frequency (Fig. 4c) was strongly enhanced in all treatments with Cd and acidification, dosed alone or in combination. 203 The principal component analysis on the whole dataset of biomarkers provided a two-204 205 dimensional pattern explaining almost 54.6% of the total variance (Fig.5). A clear separation was observed between control and treated organisms, with a further discrimination between exposure to 206 207 Cd alone and those involving the acidification with or without the metal. The parameters determining 208 the separation along PC1 axis, i.e. between control pH vs. acidification-exposed organisms, were antioxidants in digestive gland (CAT, GST, GPx and TOSC HO•), in gills (GST, GR and TOSC 209 210 ROO•), and micronuclei frequency in haemocytes; along the PC2 axis, the separation of Cd-exposure 211 was mostly determined by MTs and TGSH in both the tissues, GPxs in gills and TOSC ROO• in digestive gland. 212

The elaboration of whole biomarkers data with the weighted criteria provided a synthetic hazard quotient (HQ) for organisms of each experimental condition, with a level of hazard classified as "Slight" for scallops exposed to Cd alone and "Moderate" for those exposed to the acidified treatments; among these latter, a quantitatively higher value of HQ was summarized for scallops exposed to acidification alone than in those exposed to cadmium and high  $pCO_2/low$  pH (Fig.6).

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# 219 4. Discussions

220 This study provided evidence that future projections of pH in coastal waters can modulate221 bioaccumulation and biological effects of cadmium in the temperate scallop *F. glaber*.

The consequences of seawater acidification on metals bioavailability are variable: some authors
described increased uptake in marine organisms under reduced pH conditions (Götze *et al.*, 2014;
Ivanina *et al.*, 2014; Lacoue-Labarthe *et al.*, 2009, 2011; López *et al.*, 2010; Rodriguez-Romero *et*

al., 2014; Shi et al., 2016) while others did not report a similar effect (Benedetti et al., 2016; Ivanina 225 226 et al., 2016; Nardi et al., 2017; Ricevuto et al., 2016). In the present study, we observed a slight but 227 significant accumulation of cadmium in the digestive gland of scallops exposed to the metal, and a 228 more marked increase in the gills. The limited accumulation of cadmium in digestive gland can be explained by the high basal levels of this metal in F. glaber, and more in general in digestive glands 229 230 of scallops which possess specific high molecular weight Cd-binding proteins (Bustamante et al., 231 2002; Mauri et al., 1990; Regoli et al., 1998, 2000, 2002). When scallops were exposed under hypercapnic condition, a further, slight increase of metal uptake was observed in both the tissues, 232 233 although this additional effect was not statistically significant. A limited influence of low pH on 234 cadmium accumulation has been reported in the Antarctic scallop A. colbecki and in the Mediterranean mussel M. galloprovincialis supporting that effects of acidification on metals uptake 235 236 do not depend on the chemical speciation of the element, but rather reflect physiological effects of 237 CO<sub>2</sub> on an organism, which can not be generalized, being dependent on metal, tissue, species-specific characteristics and duration of exposure (Benedetti et al., 2016; Nardi et al., 2017). 238

Despite cadmium is known to induce metallothioneins, levels of these proteins were not modulated in *F. glaber* by metal-exposure in normocapnic or acidic conditions, neither in digestive gland nor in the gills. Also this result might be related to the specific characteristics of scallops which, beside the elevated tissue concentrations of cadmium and the presence of high molecular weight binding proteins, also contain relatively high basal levels of MTs: these features might influence the low sensitivity of metallothioneins induction pathway as previously observed in the Antarctic scallop *A. colbecki* exposed to cadmium with and without acidification (Benedetti *et al.*, 2016).

The characterization of the antioxidant system, integrating the analyses of individual antioxidant defenses with the total oxyradical scavenging capacity toward different ROS, revealed interactions between cadmium and acidification. In the digestive gland, exposure to high  $pCO_2$ /low pH enhanced the enzymatic activities of catalase, glutathione S-transferases, Se-dependent glutathione peroxidases and levels of total glutathione. Catalase and Se-dependent GPx are responsible for the detoxification 251 of hydrogen peroxide, GST are also involved in metabolism of lipid hydroperoxides while GSH, 252 beside acting as direct scavenger of ROS, is a fundamental co-factor for glutathione-dependent 253 enzymes like GST and GPx (Regoli and Giuliani, 2014). These results suggest that pH reduction 254 promotes oxidative insult through the generation of peroxides, as previously hypothesized for the oysters Crassostrea virginica and Crassostrea gigas, the polychaete Sabella spallanzanii, the scallop 255 256 A. colbecki and the Mediterranean mussel M. galloprovincialis (Benedetti et al., 2016; Moreira et al., 257 2016; Nardi et al., 2017; Ricevuto et al., 2016; Tomanek et al., 2011). With the exception of catalase, these inductive effects were typically less evident in organisms co-exposed to the metal and 258 259 acidification, suggesting some antagonistic interaction and/or a certain Cd-mediated impairment of 260 those antioxidant defenses (Regoli, 2012; Regoli and Giuliani, 2014). Despite the variation of these antioxidants, no effects were observed for the TOSC toward ROO• and HO•, indicating a good 261 262 counteracting capability toward oxidative challenge in digestive gland of F. glaber. The observed 263 inhibitions might be compensated by the involvement of other antioxidant defenses (Regoli and Giuliani, 2014), including low molecular weight scavengers or superoxide dismutase and 264 265 peroxiredoxines, which were reported as important mechanisms affected by acidification in the 266 mantle of C. virginica (Tomanek et al., 2011).

267 Different effects were obtained in the gills with no induction of any antioxidant, but rather the 268 inhibition of glutathione S-transferases by co-exposure to cadmium and acidification, and of Se-269 dependent GPx by Cd alone. Such results would indicate a lower capability to counteract oxidative stress in gills compared to digestive gland of F. glaber. In this respect, tissue-specific effects of 270 multiple stressors were previously observed also in A. colbecki and M. galloprovincialis exposed to 271 272 different combinations of cadmium, temperature and acidification (Benedetti et al., 2016; Nardi et 273 al., 2017), confirming that within the complex network of oxidative interactions it is virtually 274 impossible to predict the same responses toward multiple stressors when moving to different species, tissues, geographical latitudes or seasons (Camus et al., 2005; de Hoop et al., 2011). Despite such 275 276 variability, changes of antioxidant defenses still remain useful and sensitive early indicators of a varied oxidative challenge, whose biological significance can be reflected by the total antioxidant capacity. In our study, the marked decrease in the capability to neutralize peroxyl radicals confirmed the sensitivity of gills in organisms exposed to reduced pH with or without cadmium: compared to digestive gland, the direct contact with seawater and the filter feeding activity can probably explain the higher vulnerability of these tissues toward acidified conditions. In addition, digestive gland is a detoxification/storage tissue, with the possibility to sequester cadmium in soluble or insoluble compounds in Pectinidae such as *Pecten maximus* and *Chlamys varia* (Metian et al., 2007).

Interactive, pro-oxidant effects of acidification and cadmium exposure reduced the stability of 284 lysosomal membranes more than the single stressors, in agreement with similar effects observed in 285 286 haemocytes of mussels M. edulis and M. galloprovincialis (Beeseley et al., 2008; Nardi et al., 2017). Concerning the onset of genotoxic damages, DNA fragmentation did not vary in terms of strand 287 breaks, while micronuclei frequency was enhanced in all treatments with comparable effects in 288 289 scallops exposed to cadmium, acidification or their combination. Levels of MN increased also in the 290 Antarctic scallop A. colbecki after exposure to various combinations of Cd and reduced pH (Benedetti 291 et al., 2016), and synergistic effects of cadmium and acidification were observed in haemocytes of 292 M. galloprovincialis (Nardi et al., 2017). The increased genotoxicity caused by these stressors in 293 terms of MN frequency but not as DNA strand breaks, has been hypothesized to reflect an increased 294 mitotic rate on haemocytes of such bivalves, rather than a direct effect on DNA integrity (Benedetti 295 et al., 2016; Nardi et al., 2017).

Principal components analysis revealed clear separation between organisms exposed to Cd alone and those exposed to acidification, with or without the metal suggesting that this scallop might be more sensitive to low pH than metal exposure. This hypothesis seems to be quantitatively confirmed by the elaboration of the overall results through weighted criteria based on number, magnitude of variations and toxicological relevance of biomarkers. The summarized hazard index was "Slight" after Cd exposure, "Moderate" in organisms treated at high  $pCO_2$ /low pH: among these, the quantitative HQ value increased from Cd-acidified to acidified scallops. The relative high tolerance

of F. glaber to cadmium might reflect a certain cellular adaptation of this species to the elevated basal 303 304 content of the metal, both in terms of binding proteins and efficiency of antioxidant defenses. A similar possibility has already been supposed for the Antarctic scallop A. colbecki, characterized by 305 306 Cd levels up to 5-15 folds higher than in F. glaber due to the presence of upwelling phenomena and a natural Cd enrichment of the area: in this organism, however, the homeostatic equilibrium 307 conferring resistance to various stressors appeared overwhelmed by an additional exposure and 308 309 accumulation of this element, making A. colbecki highly sensitive to further changes of environmental 310 stressors.

In conclusion, this study supported the role of acidification as an environmental disturbance acting both through direct mechanisms and indirect modulation of responsiveness to metal exposure: however, uptake and sub-lethal effects of elements like Cd can vary in a species and tissue-specific manner, highlighting the need of additional studies to elucidate the impact of multiple stressors, particularly in species with elevated ecological or commercial importance.

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Table 1 - Water chemistry parameters during experimental exposure. T (temperature), S (salinity), pH<sub>NBS</sub> (pH calibrated with National Bureau of Standard scale),  $A_T$  (total alkalinity),  $pCO_2$  (partial pressure of  $CO_2$ ),  $\Omega c$  and  $\Omega a$  (saturation state of respectively calcite and aragonite). Data are presented as means  $\pm$  standard deviations.

	measured parameters					calculated parameters			
treatment	T (°C)	S	pH (NBS scale)	A <sub>T</sub> (μmol/kg)		<i>р</i> СО2 (µatm)	Ωc	Ωa	
CTRL	20.02 ± 0.08	30 ± 0.5	8.21 ± 0.04	3464.9 ± 138.8		407.7 ± 20.1	8.6 ± 0.4	5.5 ± 0.2	
Cd	20.00 ± 0.10	30 ± 0.5	8.19 ± 0.04	3482.5 ± 80.1		409.3 ± 22.5	8.6 ± 0.3	5.5 ± 0.3	
А	19.98 ± 0.06	30 ± 0.5	$7.41 \pm 0.04$	3431.2 ± 179.1		3144.6 ± 160.2	1.7 ± 0.1	$1.1 \pm 0.1$	
A-Cd	20.92 ± 0.08	30 ± 0.5	7.43 ± 0.04	3464.9 ± 138.8		3124.3 ± 162.3	1.7 ± 0.2	$1.1 \pm 0.1$	



Figure 1. Cadmium concentrations in digestive gland (a) and gills (b) of exposed scallops. Data are
expressed as mean values ± standard deviations (n=5). Different letters indicate significant
differences between group of means (ANOVA and Tukey HSD *post-hoc*). CTRL= Control; Cd=
Cadmium; A= acidification; A-Cd= acidification + Cd.



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599 Figure 2. Metallothioneins and antioxidant defenses in digestive gland of scallops exposed to various treatments. MT: metallothioneins (a), CAT: catalase (b), GST: glutathione S-transferase (c), Se-Dep. 600 GPx: Se-dependent glutathione peroxidases (d) total GPx: sum of Se-dependent and Se-independent 601 glutathione peroxidases (e), GR: glutathione reductase (f), TGSH: total glutathione (g), TOSC ROO•: 602 total oxyradical scavenging capacity toward peroxyl radical (h), TOSC HO•: total oxyradical 603 scavenging capacity toward hydroxyl radical (i). Data are given as mean values ± standard deviations 604 (n=5). Different letters indicate significant differences between group of means (ANOVA and Tukey 605 606 HSD *post-hoc*). CTRL= Control; Cd= Cadmium; A= acidification; A-Cd= acidification + Cd.



608 Figure 3. Metallothioneins and antioxidant defenses in gills of scallops exposed to various treatments. MT: metallothioneins (a), CAT: catalase (b), GST: glutathione S-transferase (c), Se-Dep. GPx: Se-609 dependent glutathione peroxidases (d) total GPx: sum of Se-dependent and Se-independent 610 glutathione peroxidases (e), GR: glutathione reductase (f), TGSH: total glutathione (g), TOSC ROO•: 611 total oxyradical scavenging capacity toward peroxyl radical (h), TOSC HO•: total oxyradical 612 613 scavenging capacity toward hydroxyl radical (i). Data are given as mean values ± standard deviations (n=5). Different letters indicate significant differences between group of means (ANOVA and Tukey 614 615 HSD *post-hoc*). CTRL= Control; Cd= Cadmium; A= acidification; A-Cd= acidification + Cd.



Figure 4. Lysosomal and genotoxic parameters in haemocytes of scallops exposed to various
treatments. LMS: lysosomal membrane stability (a), DNA damage (b), MN: frequency of micronuclei
(c). Data are given as mean values ± standard deviation (n=5). Different letters indicate significant
differences between group of means (ANOVA and Tukey HSD *post-hoc*). CTRL= Control; Cd=
Cadmium; A= acidification; A-Cd= acidification + Cd.



Figure 5. Graphical representation of principal components analysis conducted on biological
parameters analyzed in scallops tissues. CTRL= Control; Cd= Cadmium; A= acidification; A-Cd=
acidification + Cd. Arrows represent the ten major variables that contribute to the separation.

	Experimental Treatment	Hazard Quotients (HQs)	Class of Hazard	Level	
	Cd	9.06	SLIGHT		
_	А	21.07	MODERATE		
_	A-Cd	13.13	MODERATE		

Figure 6. Weighted classification of biomarkers data for the whole dataset of analyzed parameters in
each experimental condition. The quantitative hazard quotients (HQ) and the assigned class of hazard
are given.