

Molecular response of a sub-Antarctic population of the blue mussel (Mytilus edulis platensis) to a moderate thermal stress

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1	Molecular response of a sub-Antarctic population of the blue mussel (Mytilus edulis platensis)
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18 Abstract

19 The Kerguelen Islands (49°26'S, 69°50'E) represent a unique environment due to their geographical 20 isolation, which protects them from anthropogenic pollution. The ability of the endemic mussel, part of 21 the Mytilus complex, to cope with moderate heat stress was explored using omic tools. Transcripts 22 involved in six major metabolic functions were selected and the qRT-PCR data indicated mainly changes 23 in aerobic and anaerobic energy metabolism and stress response. Proteomic comparisons revealed a 24 typical stress response pattern with cytoskeleton modifications and elements suggesting increased 25 energy metabolism. Results also suggest conservation of protein homeostasis by the long-lasting 26 presence of HSP while a general decrease in transcription is observed. The overall findings are 27 consistent with an adaptive response to moderate stresses in mussels in good physiological condition, 28 i.e. living in a low-impact site, and with the literature concerning this model species. Therefore, local 29 blue mussels could be advantageously integrated into biomonitoring strategies, especially in the context 30 of Global Change.

32 Key words

- 33 Kerguelen island, Mytilus sp., indicator species, gills, abiotic stress, temperature, qRT-PCR, 2DE,
- 34 biomonitoring

36 **1. Introduction**

37 The sub-Antarctic islands are amongst the most isolated territories from any continental landmass and 38 contain a number of marine, coastal habitats present at these latitudes. On one hand, due to rapid and 39 drastic changes in climatic conditions at high latitudes, accurate assessments of the sensitivity and 40 vulnerability of polar organisms must be achieved in order to reliably predict possible changes in those 41 ecosystems. On the other hand, thanks to scientific projects conducted in this location for decades, 42 observation and experimentation on sentinel species provide priceless opportunities to improve our 43 knowledge of adaptive responses and ecophysiological strategies in invertebrates from naturally, highly 44 variable environments, such as intertidal habitats (Caza et al., 2015; Suda et al., 2015; Guillaumot et 45 al., 2020). In addition, the physicochemical quality of marine waters is much influenced by both 46 hydrologic factors and atmospheric inputs. Hence, these isolated marine ecosystems have been found 47 to face anthropogenic pressure, as trace contaminations were reported in aquatic habitats and biota 48 (Carravieri et al., 2013; Jaffal et al., 2015).

49 Scientific consensus has been reached on Global Change and several scenarios predict significant 50 average temperature increase toward 2100 (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change-IPCC, 51 Pachauri et al., 2014; Pörtner et al., 2019). They anticipate not only a global warming, but also an 52 increase of extreme events such as heat waves. One challenge we face is to decipher temperature 53 impact on organisms when combined with pre-existing stress. Marine invertebrates have been widely 54 used as bioindicators of coastal water quality, mainly for monitoring chemical pollution, in order to 55 measure site contamination levels but also to assess biological effects on invertebrate communities 56 (Auffret, 2005; Beyer et al., 2017). The intertidal belt of the Kerguelen archipelago is inhabited by 57 numerous mussel beds. Two species share the same rocky shore habitat: the Antarctic sub-species of 58 blue mussel, Mytilus edulis platensis (M. edulis platensis) and the ribbed mussel Aulacomya atra. Blue 59 mussels are keystone species in coastal ecosystems distributed in many oceans as a result of genetic 60 differentiation within smooth-shelled mussels, now grouped in the so-called Mytilus complex. In the 61 Northern Hemisphere, the *M. edulis* complex of species is composed of three genetically well delineated 62 taxa: M. edulis, M. galloprovincialis and M. trossulus (Gerard et al, 2008). The occurrence of blue 63 mussels has also been reported in the Southern Hemisphere, as M. galloprovincialis and so-called 64 "native Chilean smooth-shelled Mytilus" at the southern tip of the South American continent (Borsa et 65 al, 2012). The latter species was assigned at a subspecific rank and named *M. edulis platensis* by these authors. Kerguelen mussels, earlier described as *M. desolationis*, are now assigned as *M. edulis platensis* (Gerard et al, 2015). To our knowledge, there is no report relating the occurrence of other members of the genus *Mytilus* at the Kerguelen archipelago, nor was any introduction reported to date. The ecophysiological status of mussel populations remains largely unknown. In a recent study, Caza et al. (2015) compared the immune status of the two cohabiting mussel species and observed that responses to experimental abiotic changes differed between these species suggesting possible contrasted resilience to environmental stress.

73 The present study focused on stress ecophysiology of the endemic blue mussels collected from natural 74 populations in response to temperature stress. Investigations in those osmo- and thermo-conformers 75 were expected to produce valuable baseline biomarker signatures that would be relevant for monitoring 76 both anthropogenic and climatic pressure on high latitudes and other pristine coastal ecosystems. 77 Temperature variations were found to modify physiological processes such as respiration and nutrition, 78 but also numerous molecular pathways, with species-specific thermal tolerance (Kültz, 2020; Somero, 79 2020). At the physiological level, small temperature variation increases respiration and nutrition 80 processes, but when more stressful temperature occurs, metabolism shuts down with marked decrease 81 of respiration rate.

82 In bivalve mollusks, respiration and nutrition are supported by the gills, an interface organ between the 83 mussel and its environment. In the present work, gill tissues collected from mussels exposed to a mild 84 thermal stress were analyzed by proteomic and transcriptomic tools using two-dimensional gel 85 electrophoresis (2DE) and qPCR, respectively. On-gel 2DE constitutes an open approach to analyze 86 complex proteomic patterns and detect differentially abundant proteoforms (DAPs) (Rabilloud et al., 87 2010; Lee et al., 2020). In parallel with the proteomic analyses, the mRNA expression of 51 genes was 88 monitored to determine the impact of exposure to increased temperature on the expression pattern of 89 individuals. These genes were chosen to cover different metabolic pathways (energetic metabolism, 90 oxidative stress scavenging, stress response, detoxication, immune response and cell cycle regulation), 91 on the basis of previous studies. Hence, molecular components involved in the process of adaptation 92 and resistance to thermal stress are numerous and have been reviewed in several publications of 93 interest (for examples, please see: Somero, 2010; Lockwood and Somero, 2011; Fields et al., 2012; 94 Tomanek, 2012, 2014; Péden et al., 2016; Clark et al., 2017; Coppola et al., 2018; Feidantsis et al., 95 2020). In addition, we genotyped individuals (Glu-5' locus, Inoue et al.; 1995; Gerard et al., 2015) to

96 verify whether there is potential inter-individual variability in the response pattern to temperature change.
97 In summary, this study aimed to investigate the ability of the endemic blue mussels to cope with a
98 thermal stress.

99

100 2. Material and Methods

101 **2.1. Site description and mussel collection**

Kerguelen is a small, isolated archipelago in the Southern Indian Ocean characterized by a highly heterogeneous environment. The proximity of the polar front generates a temperature contrast between the northern and the southern coasts. The circumpolar, oceanic front creates two separated branches from the western side of the main island. Combined with high freshwater inputs from many rivers, waters in the northeastern part of the archipelago have relatively lower salinity, as in most locations at the mouth of many small coastal rivers.

Seawater temperatures at Kerguelen were obtained from the long-term monitoring program "Proteker" (Féral et al. 2016). It revealed that between 2012 and 2019 the mean annual temperature in the Baie du Morbihan where mussels were collected varied between 4.1 and 5.5°C at 5 m depth. The maximums observed ranged between 5.6 and 11.1°C during the austral summer while the minimums ranged between 1.0 and 4.6°C in the austral winter (http://www.proteker.net/-Thermorecorders-.html).

113 Mussels (*M. edulis platensis*) (65.23 ± 4.55 mm shell length) were collected from Kerguelen Archipelago 114 (Bras-Laboureur: $049^{\circ}27.897S$ / $069^{\circ}66.086E$) in December of 2013. The mussels were sampled at 115 once in the intertidal zone and kept in 20L containers filled with clean, aerated seawater collected 116 offshore at the sampling site. The water was oxygenated by aeration using a battery-operated portable 117 air pump and organisms were maintained throughout the transport phase at a water temperature close 118 to those measured on field ($7.5^{\circ}C$).

Once at the Port-aux-Français laboratory (approximately 6h post-harvest), the mussels were divided in homogenous groups of 50 individuals per 50L aerated aquarium tanks containing filtered recirculating seawater maintained on a 12h:12h light cycle (Fig. 1). A 7-days acclimation period was conducted at 7.5°C, which corresponds to the water temperature observed in the field. A first sampling was then performed for gene expression analysis (T0-control and T0-test). After acclimation, one group of mussels was maintained at the field temperature while the other group was exposed to a mild thermal challenge. Specifically, water temperature was increased from 7.5 to 20°C over a period of 7 days (+1.8°C per day). Finally, mussels were kept under their thermal conditions with daily follow up of temperature, salinity and pH until their sacrifice at T28 (group T28-control and group T28-test). For all sampling, gills were dissected out, immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C until analysis. Our experimental design is based on the individual as the sampling unit (and thus, as the replication level), and the level at which we want to assess variations in gene expression and proteomics.

131

132 2.2. Gene expression

133 2.2.1. RNA extraction and qRT-PCR analysis

Total RNA was extracted from gill tissue using TRI Reagent® solution (Ambion) according to the 134 135 manufacturer's instructions (n=10 per condition). Three µg of total RNA were reverse transcribed using 136 M-MLV reverse transcriptase (Promega, Madison, WI), random hexamers (Promega) and an anchor-137 oligo(dT) primer (5'-CGCTCTAGAACTAGTGGATCT(17)-3'). The relative mRNA expression of 51 genes 138 selected for their involvement in different metabolisms was estimated by real-time PCR amplification 139 using specific primers (Table S1). A volume of 2.1 µl of each diluted reverse transcription product (1:100) 140 was subjected to real-time PCR in a final volume of 5 µl containing 0.4µM of primers and 1X LightCycler® 141 480 SYBR green I master (Roche, Germany). The amplification was carried out as follows: initial enzyme 142 activation at 95°C for 6 min, then 40 cycles of 95°C for 10 sec, hybridization at 60°C for 30 sec and 143 elongation at 72°C for 30 sec. Calibration curves were obtained using serial dilution of a cDNA pool from 12 individuals. In this study, we used a fragment of 28S as a reference gene, because other commonly 144 145 used reference genes (such as EF1a or actin) are often found regulated in stressed bivalves (Boutet et 146 al., 2004; Tanguy et al., 2004; David et al., 2005). Relative expression of each gene was calculated 147 according to comparative Ct method using the formula: $RQ = 2^{-\Delta Ct}$.

148

149 2.2.2. Statistical analysis

In order to assess modifications of transcriptomics response patterns according to time and temperature, all the dataset was analyzed by using a PLS-DA (Partial Least Square Discriminant Analysis, MixOmics package version 6.6.2., Le Cao et al. 2016). This method is appropriate for experimental designs with far more variables than individuals within each group, and when the dataset contains missing values. It allows identification of the gene expression levels that are the most suitable to separate exposure conditions, *i.e.* whose variations are characteristics of each condition. 156 Important genes were selected based on the VIP (Variable Importance in the Projection) values, with a 157 threshold value of 1. Exposure conditions were then plotted on a factorial plane combining the two first 158 axes of the PLS-DA, while variables were plotted on a correlation circle, giving the correlation of each 159 variable with the axes of the PLS-DA. The significance of the exposure condition discrimination was 160 assessed by a permutation test based on a cross-validation test (Westerhuis et al., 2010; Szymańska 161 et al., 2012, RVAideMemoire package version 0.9-75). Here, the structure described by our classification 162 variable (exposure condition) was analyzed using a "null model". In this model, gene expression data 163 are randomized among the two groups, to generate a structure where chance is the only driver of the 164 dataset. At each iteration, the observed and the random structure are compared, and the model is 165 significant if the discrimination is better with the observed rather than with the random dataset. In a first 166 step, the test was performed to define whether the built model was significant, hence that at least one 167 group is significantly discriminated from the others. Once this first assessment done, a second test 168 performs paired comparisons among the four experimental groups with an FDR (false detection rate) 169 adjustment of p-values, to further explore gene expression differences between each group. All analyses 170 were performed with RStudio version 1.1.463, with R version 3.6.3 (R Core Team 2000, RStudio Team 171 2016).

172

173 2.2.3. Glu-5' genotyping

174 After extracting DNA from the gills using a standard phenol-chloroform-isoamyl alcohol extraction 175 locus Glu-5' amplified with protocol (25:24:1), the was primers Me-15 (5'-176 CCAGTATACAAACCTGTGAAGAC-3') and Me-17 (5'-CTGGTGGATAATTTGTCTTTGC-3'). This locus 177 is located at the 5' extremity of exon Glu coding for an adhesive foot protein (Inoue et al. 1995; Rawson 178 et al., 1996). This locus contains an insertion/deletion (indel) zone, whose amplification reveals three 179 alleles: (T, E and G) that, respectively distinguish *M. trossulus*, *M. edulis*, and *M. galloprovincialis* in the 180 Northern Hemisphere (Borsa et al., 1999). Here, the amplification of the Glu-5' exon produced 210-bp 181 (allele E) and 160-bp (allele G) fragments, typical of, respectively, M. edulis and M. galloprovincialis 182 from the Northern Hemisphere (Inoue et al., 1995), but allowing identification of local adaptations of M. 183 edulis platensis in Kerguelen (Gerard et al, 2015). The genotypes at Glu-5' were determined from 184 fragment-length variation on 2% agarose gels.

Differences in gene expression according to the genotype was studied through a PCA. Since the database contains missing values, a first step was to impute missing values using the imputePCA function of the missMDA package v1.18 (Josse and Huchon, 2013, 2016). Then a classical PCA was performed with the ade4 package v1.7-15 (Dray and Dufour, 2007). To confirm the absence of structure observed in the factorial plane, a MANOVA on the individuals coordinates on the two first axes of the PCA, with the exposure condition x genotype combination as independent variable was performed.

191 Since the experimental design was not equilibrated for genotype, since it's only a posteriori data, no 192 systematic test was possible to compare gene expression at each condition and to test for interaction 193 between exposure duration and temperature. However, some control can be performed. The tank effect 194 at T0 was compared with the (EG) genotype. After checking for normality and homoscedasticity, we 195 performed either a student t test or a Welch t test. With the same procedure, we tested the exposure 196 duration effect on gene expression with the (EE) genotype for the control tank (n=3 for T0, n=4 for T28). 197 Finally, the genotype effect was assessed at T0, in the test tank (n=3 for (EE) genotype and n=6 for 198 (EG) genotype).

200 **2.3.** Proteome analysis and statistical treatment

201 Protein extraction and two-dimensional analysis were performed as previously described in Péden et 202 al., 2016. Gills of mussels sacrificed at day 28 (two conditions: group T28-control and group T28-test, 203 n=8) were ground using Precellys[®] Homogenizers and sonicated in a 1:4 ratio of lysis buffer (9 M urea, 204 2% CHAPS, 65 mM dithioerythritol, 0.02% pharmalyte 3-10NL, GE Healthcare and 16 µg·mL⁻¹ 205 aprotinin). Cellular debris was removed by centrifugation at $10000 \times g$ for 20 min at 20°C and protein 206 concentrations of supernatants were determined according to the method of Bradford with bovine serum 207 albumin as a standard. For 2D electrophoresis, 750 µg of proteins per sample were loaded on non-linear 208 wide-range immobilized pH gradients (IPG strip pH 3-10, NL/18 cm, GE Healthcare). The IEF 209 (isoelectrofocusing) was carried out with a horizontal electrophoresis apparatus (Multiphor, Amersham 210 Pharmacia Biotech). The electric parameters were as follow: 500 V for 0.01 h (gradient), 500 V for 5 h, 211 3500 V for 5 h (gradient) and 3500 V for 9.5 h. After IEF, strips were incubated for 15 min in an 212 equilibration buffer (0.5 M Tris buffer pH 6.8 with 6 M urea, 1% SDS, 26% glycerol) containing first, 30 213 mM dithiothreitol and second, 245 mM iodoacetamide. SDS-PAGE electrophoresis was performed with 214 a Protean plus Dodeca-Cell (Bio-Rad) allowing a parallel run of 12 large gels (12% polyacrylamide, 20

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215 cm x 20 cm x 1.5 cm). After migration, proteins were visualized by colloidal blue staining. Gels were 216 scanned using the GS-800[™] Calibrated Densitometer (Bio-Rad) and exported from Quantity One as 217 raw file (16-bits, .tif). Only gels exhibiting highly reproducible patterns were selected for analysis (4 per 218 condition). Images were analyzed using Delta 2D (Decodon, GmbH). With this software, a single 219 composite image named the fusion gel was created using the group warping strategy to connect gel 220 images through match vectors. After quality checking, a gel fusion of 957 spots was obtained. The spot 221 boundaries detected on the fusion gel were subsequently transferred back to all the gels, establishing 222 spot parameters. For each spot, the normalized volume was expressed as percentage of the total 223 volume of all spots of the gel. Normalized volumes were compared between control group (group T28-224 control) and group of mussels exposed to 20°C (group T28-test) following a Student t-test. A total of 61 225 spots passed the p<0.01 cut-off and of these, 49 were determined to be correctly delimited on all 226 individual gels and therefore were considered as significantly different.

227

228 2.4. MS/MS and protein identification

229 Spots of interest were excised manually from colloidal blue stained 2D gel and submitted to in gel digest 230 by trypsin (Promega France). After digestion, peptides were dried on a speedvac, resuspended in 15 231 μ L of 3% (v/v) acetonitrile and 0.1% (v/v) formic acid, and then analyzed with a nano-LC1200 system 232 coupled to a Q-TOF 6520 mass spectrometer equipped with a nanospray source and an HPLC-chip 233 cube interface (Agilent Technologies). A 30-min linear gradient (3-80% acetonitrile in 0.1% formic acid), 234 at a flow rate of 370 nL/min, was used to separate peptides on polaris-HR-Chip C18 column (150 mm 235 long x 75 µm inner diameter). Full autoMS1 scans from 200 to 1700 m/z and autoMS2 from 9 to 1700 236 m/z were recorded. In every cycle, a maximum of 5 precursors sort by charge state (2+ referred and 237 single-charged ions excluded) were isolated and fragmented in the collision cell. Collision cell energy 238 was automatically adjusted depending on the m/z. Active exclusion of these precursors was enabled 239 after 2 spectra within 1 min, and the threshold for precursor selection was set to 4000 counts. A peak 240 list for database searching was created by using Masshunter Workstation-Qualitative Analysis (version 241 B.04.00; Agilent Technologies). For protein identification, MS/MS peak lists were extracted and analyzed 242 with X!tandem pipeline (http://pappso.inrae.fr/). Mass spectra were investigated using protein databanks 243 translated with TransDecoder from RNA-seq data of Mytilus galloprovincialis and Crassostrea gigas 244 species (Moreira et al., 2015). The searches were performed with the following specific parameters:

enzyme specificity, trypsin; one missed cleavage permitted; variable modifications, methionine
oxidation, cysteine carbamidomethylation; peptide mass tolerance, 10 ppm; fragment mass tolerance,
0.5 Da. As filter identification results, the following parameters were used: peptide Evalue, 0.05;
minimum number of peptides per protein, 2; protein Evalue -4.0. Protein blast search was done against
the non-redundant protein database from NCBI (https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov).

250

251 2.6. Protein network analysis

252 Association network analysis of proteins was conducted using STRING (https://string-db.org; Szklarczyk 253 et al., 2019). STRING (Search Tool for the Retrieval of Interacting Genes/Proteins) is a database of 254 known and predicted protein-protein interactions, including physical and functional associations. The 255 data stem from computational prediction, from knowledge transfer between organisms, and from 256 interactions aggregated from other databases. The interaction map was generated from the web-based 257 search STRING v11.0 database (https://string-db.org/). Default settings are as follows: evidences were 258 selected for meaning of network edges; all active interaction sources were used for linkage; minimum 259 required interaction score was fixed at medium confidence (0.400). Network nodes represent proteins. 260 Edges represent protein-protein associations, meant to be specific and meaningful, *i.e.* proteins jointly 261 contribute to a shared function.

262

263 3. Results & discussion

264 The average temperature at Kerguelen depends on numerous factors, including depth, localization, 265 seasons, currents, etc. In summer, the typical temperature at a 5m depth is approximately 7-8°C (Féral 266 et al., 2016). In summer, during low tide, however, the temperature in mussel beds can reach more than 267 10-15°C, and possibly more in sunny conditions. The 20°C exposure condition is thus not an unrealistic 268 scenario and is most likely to become a common event given the increase of seawater temperature at 269 Kerguelen. The 28-day period is an experimental condition that more or less represents a semi-chronic 270 exposure often used to study the effect of specific factors on the health status of mussels (Beaudry et 271 al., 2016; Coppola et al., 2018; Lenz et al., 2018, etc.).

A recurrent debate exists within scientific literature on what is the appropriate level of replication in ecological and ecotoxicological studies (Bastos et al., 2013; Devin et al., 2014; Davies and Gray, 2015). Indeed, pseudoreplication can't be avoided, and a tank effect can have occurred in our experiment. 275 However, given the tested hypothesis and the recorded biological responses, it's far more likely that it's

the thermal stress that induced such effects.

277

278 **3.1.** Transcriptional analysis reveals metabolic adaptations

Our results indicate that mRNA expression profiles are significantly different between groups of mussels subjected or not to a temperature increase (Table 1 and Table S2 for significant and non-significant results, respectively). The gene expression levels allow a better discrimination than a null model, with a classification error rate of 0.56 (p=0.008). Such a high level of error rate is not surprising, since no differences were expected between the two T0 tanks (T0-control and T0-test), nor between T0-control and T28-control (absence of thermal stress).

285 Looking at the factorial plane (Fig. 2A) focused on genes with VIP > 1 (threshold considered as 286 significant in the PLS analysis, Fig. 2B and Table 1), it appears that the ellipses corresponding to the 287 groups of mussels maintained at field temperature (T0-control and T28-control) are superimposed 288 (p=0.23), indicating that the expression profiles do not vary over time. For individuals of the test tank at 289 T0, the superposition of the ellipses is also present with the control groups (T0-control and T0-test, 290 p=0.59), evidencing that the initial physiological state of each group of mussels was the same and that 291 the exposure time alone did not induce any modification in gene expression, while an increase in inter-292 individual variability is observed. Finally, after 28 days of exposure, a significant difference in gene 293 expression level between the two-groups was evidenced (T28-control and T28-test, p=0.014). However, 294 in relation to this variability, pairwise comparisons failed to evidence significant differences between-295 conditions. In order to identify the potential source of these variations, we hypothesized that an 296 underlying genetic component could partly explain the increase in inter-individual variability in the group 297 of mussels exposed to 20°C. In a previous study, potential correlations between the 298 phosphoglucomutase genotype and the level of mRNA expression have been shown in the hydrothermal 299 mussel Bathymodiolus azoricus exposed to different temperature increases (Boutet al., 2009). In this 300 study, we genotyped the Glu-5' locus, which was also used to determine the fine genetic structure of 301 the Kerguelen mussels (Gerard et al., 2015) and showed that the three different genotypes (EE, EG and 302 GG) are represented in the four experimental groups (Table S3). In order to detect a potential difference 303 in mRNA expression depending on the genotype of the individuals, a PCA was performed. The factorial 304 plane evidenced no particular structure within the data, with random distribution of genotypes among

305 exposure conditions (Fig. 3). The MANOVA performed on the individuals with the exposure condition x 306 genotype combination as independent variable was not significant (Wilks Lambda = 0.557, p=0.74). 307 Other tests done to detect a potential effect of conditioning of individuals (tanks and exposure time) are 308 not significant, showing that for a given condition individuals are impacted in the same way. Finally, the 309 genotype effect was assessed at T0, in the test tank (n=3 for (EE) and n=6 for (EG)). In this last case, 310 5 significant differences were found between expression levels of the two genotypes: ATP synthase 311 (p=0.002), Big defensin (p=0.008), HSP90 (p=0.037), mitMDH (p=0.046) and PGmut (p=0.043). Values 312 were similar for the 46 other genes. As no mortality related to conditioning or temperature increase was 313 observed over the duration of the experiment, this suggests that the mussels are capable of withstanding 314 a relatively large temperature change. In their original environment, mussels are subjected to strong 315 variations related to the tides (emersion, sudden temperature change, etc.) and their distribution on the 316 intertidal zone is not only conditioned by these factors but also by the structure of the environment (rock 317 vs. sand, waves, fresh water input, presence or absence of an algae bed). These constraints influence 318 the genetic structuring of the mussels (detected with the nuclear marker Glu-5') at the scale of the 319 archipelago but also at the scale of a site (Gerard et al., 2015). Although this study is purely genetic and 320 does not provide information on the physiology of these mussel populations, we can assume that 321 individuals carrying different Glu-5' genotype have different responses to environmental variations.

322 Increase of water temperature is known to induce changes at mRNA expression level as a part of cellular 323 stress response (CSR) (Evans and Hofmann, 2012), including genes related to various metabolism 324 processes in order to maintain cell functions (Kültz, 2005; Lockwood et al., 2010, 2015; Somero, 2010, 325 2020). In the present study, the expression of 51 genes involved in different metabolism pathways was 326 analyzed (Table S1) and among them, 17 showed significant variations in expression between groups 327 of mussels exposed to 7.5°C or 20°C at T28 (Table 1). Interestingly, the expression of most of them 328 decreased after exposure to 20°C and only 4 had higher expression in the same individuals. More 329 generally, when all the genes are observed (including those with no significant differences in 330 expression), mRNA expression decreases after exposure to 20°C. Even if the differences are not 331 significant on the global analysis, it can nevertheless be noted that the lack of significance at this level 332 is partially explained by the inter-individual variability observed previously (Fig. 2). The decrease in gene 333 expression and more generally in metabolism in response to stress (temperature, hypoxia, etc.) has 334 been particularly well described in marine organisms (Storey and Storey, 2004; Anestis et al., 2007, 335 2008; Boutet et al., 2009) and is presented as an essential mechanism during hibernation, estivation, 336 oxygen deprivation or periods of intense heat stress (see Storey and Storey, 2004 for review). In the 337 case of Kerguelen mussels, exposure to 20°C, although considered a moderate stress, seems to affect 338 the metabolism at the transcriptional level to limit energy cost. At the global level, genes coding for 339 proteins involved in energy metabolism (aerobic and anaerobic) seem to be strongly impacted: 6 have 340 a significant decrease in expression (glyc phos, aconitase, TPI, octDH, enolase and aldolase) and 1 an 341 increase (ATP synth) (Table 1), and the other 19 genes involved in energy metabolism show a decrease 342 in expression although not significant. Our results with ATP synthase subunit α are consistent with the 343 fact that response to stress impacts organism metabolism according to its duration and/or intensity and 344 that mussels have to cope with energy demand through ATP production to maintain organism and cell 345 functions (Sokolova, 2013). ATP synthase is particularly involved in this mechanism and is actively 346 regulated at both transcriptomic and proteomic levels. Moreover, the anaerobic metabolic pathways 347 commonly involved in the response to thermal and hypoxic stress in coastal organisms (opine pathways 348 for example, Harcet et al., 2013; Han et al., 2017), are here regulated (significantly or not) in the sense 349 of a decrease in mRNA expression. Indeed, while LDH and cytMDH expression did not vary significantly, 350 OctDH mRNA is significantly less expressed in mussels exposed to 20°C. It can be assumed that these 351 enzymes are regulated at post-transcriptional level to respond to environmental constraints, as is the 352 case here for cytMDH which shows an increase in the amount of protein (see section 3.2).

353 In response to an increase in temperature, the expression of some other selected varies significantly: 354 Hsp60 (stress response), mt20 (detoxification) and HFI (O₂ sensing) are overexpressed in individuals 355 exposed to 20°C. Several studies have shown a regulation of Hsp60 mRNA expression in marine 356 bivalves in response to increased temperature, without fully understanding its direct involvement in this 357 response (Snyder et al., 2001; Ding et al., 2018). The other members of the HSP family studied here 358 show either a significant decrease in expression (HSP24 and HSP90) or an absence of variation 359 (HSC71, HSP22 and HSP78). In this work, it would appear that stress proteins are also regulated at the 360 post-transcriptional level.

Interestingly, the MT10 and MT20 metallothionein system is antagonistically regulated, with *mt10* showing a decrease in expression while *mt20* increases in the gills of mussels exposed to 20°C. Although MTs are mainly involved in protection against metals or oxidative conditions (Le et al., 2016), an increase in the level of *mt20* expression has already been shown in thermally challenged mussels (Hamer et al., 2008; Gourou et al., 2010; Feidantsis et al., 2020). On the other hand, *mt10* has so far rather been considered as having no expression variations (constitutive form as opposed to the inducible form MT20, Dondero et al., 2005; Raspor et al., 2006; Gourou et al., 2010). However, several studies have reported variations in the expression of *mt10* (often an increase) in response to different stresses (Banni et al., 2014; Lacroix et al., 2014; Rossi et al., 2016). It thus appears that Kerguelen mussels have a different response to *mt10* gene expression than other mussels (especially from the northern hemisphere) characterized by a decrease of expression.

372 Under natural conditions, an increase in temperature reduces the amount of available oxygen, thereby 373 inducing the risk of hypoxia-driven stress response for organisms, which have higher metabolic demand 374 (Vaquer-Sunyer et al., 2008; Breitburg et al., 2018; Roman et al., 2019). During the experiment, the 375 mussels were in constant immersion and the water was continuously aerated; no hypoxic events were 376 thus caused by the temperature increase in the tanks. The regulation of genes involved in oxygen 377 sensing is therefore not linked to a decrease in available oxygen but to the temperature increase itself. 378 In this work, the expression profile of the 5 genes coding for proteins involved in the response to 379 oxidative stress and O₂ sensing is variable: indeed, only Hypoxia-inducible factor 1 α inhibitor (HFI) 380 shows a significant increase in its expression, while CuZnSOD, perox 6 and P-hydrox show a non-381 significant decrease and catalase increases non-significantly. These genes have been used as 382 biomarkers in other studies and show significant variations in their level of expression (Banni et al., 383 2014). The activation pathways by HIF-1 α , although acting promptly during a hypoxic event (Hochachka 384 and Lutz, 2001; Kawabe et al., 2012; Cai et al., 2014; Giannetto et al., 2015), seem to be regulated here 385 by an increase in temperature. However, it is difficult to determine the exact role of HFI in the regulation 386 of the gene cascades involved in the response of mussels. Indeed, HIF-1 α is involved in the regulation 387 of many metabolic pathways under stress conditions, notably glycolysis (Hochachka and Lutz, 2001) 388 and its regulation by an inhibitor at the transcriptional level is complex to relate to the overall response 389 of the organism.

390

391 **3.2.** Proteomic analysis pinpoints a marked recruitment of stress proteins.

In ecotoxicology, 2DE has been widely used to study *Mytilus* species responses to various stresses including temperature, mainly in *M. galloprovincialis*, *M. californianus* or *M. trossulus* (Tomanek and Zuzow, 2010; Ji et al., 2013; Gomes et al., 2014; Xu et al., 2016) but also in *M. edulis* (Apraiz et al., 2006; Sheehan and McDonagh, 2008; Letendre et al., 2011; Hu et al., 2014; Péden et al., 2016; Péden
et al., 2018). We thus conducted a 2DE proteomic analysis of gills collected from mussels maintained
at 7.5°C and 20°C.

398 Eight gels displaying highly reproducible patterns were kept for further analyses (4 per condition). The 399 analysis of the 2DE gel images using Delta 2D (Decodon) produced a final dataset of 957 proteoforms. 400 Analyses revealed that 49 of them were significantly differentially abundant with a 0.01 p-value, of which 401 37 exhibited higher abundance and 12 were less abundant compared to control (Table 2 and Fig. S1). 402 Most of the proteoforms were up-regulated (67%) and 37 out of 49 were identified by mass spectrometry 403 (Table S4). The overall response corresponds to limited modifications of the gill proteome in terms of 404 number of DAPs and fold changes. Those elements suggest there is no cellular homeostasis disruption 405 in the thermal stress group, only adjustments (Brose et al., 2012).

406 The interaction map of the 37 aforementioned DAPs was generated from the web-based search 407 STRING database (Fig. 4). The resulting network of protein-protein interaction (PPI) exhibited an 408 enrichment PPI p-value lower than1.10⁻¹⁶, indicating significantly more interactions than randomly 409 expected. In particular, Cellular response to heat stress is the first Reactome Pathways of the network 410 with a false discovery rate of 1.03 10⁻⁷ and a cluster of 7 proteins (surrounded in bold in Fig. 4 and Table 411 2), all presented an increase in abundance in gills of T28-test mussels as compared to the control group: 412 HSP90 A1 (spot 1536), HSP90 B1 (spot 1454), HSC 71 (spot 1608), HSPA 5 (spot 1552), HSP70, spot 413 1599, HSP56 (spot 1756) and 14-3-3 protein epsilon (spot 2194). All of these proteins, with the exception 414 of the 14-3-3 protein epsilon, belong to the highly conserved Heat Shock Protein family (HSP) which 415 participates in folding and allows protein preservation or renaturation after stress-induced alteration. 416 Upregulation of members of this family is commonly observed during adaptive response to various 417 stresses (Buckley et al., 2001; Kültz, 2003; Hartl et al., 2011; Brose et al., 2012; Powers and Balch, 418 2013; Kültz, 2020; Somero, 2020). 14-3-3 proteins are adapter proteins implicated in the regulation of a 419 large spectrum of signaling pathways, including glucose metabolism, apoptosis, cell cycle progression, 420 autophagy and cell motility. Other proteoforms involved in response to various stresses were also 421 modified: peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase B (PPIB, spot 2241), heat shock protein 40 (DNAJB11, 422 spot 1917), heat shock protein 75 kDa, mitochondrial (TRAP1, spot 1588) and a peroxiredoxin (PRDX, 423 spot 2349), the latter being the only one with a decreased abundance. Moreover, the neutral aglucosidase AB is a non-HSP family proteoform involved in folding and quality control in endoplasmic 424

reticulum and was upregulated. Interestingly, we also observed over-expression of a galectin (spot 1656). Galectins belong to the multi-functional lectin family and may act as stress sensors. For instance, galectins are involved in autophagy and apoptosis and contribute to innate immune response in invertebrates (Bai et al., 2017). Taken together, these results indicate that exposure of mussels at 20°C was sufficient to induce a mild but significant stress response.

430 In addition to variations in stress proteins, we paid particular attention to proteins involved in cytoskeletal 431 rearrangement and cell trafficking (Fig. 4). Indeed, cytoskeleton is often targeted under stress (Magi et 432 al., 2008; Letendre et al., 2011; Jayasundara et al., 2015; Madeira et al., 2020). Our results showed a 433 significant increase in abundance of β -actin (spot 1913) and tubulin (spot 1721). Expression of other 434 cytoskeletal proteins included an actin filament bundling (fascin, spot 1738), a membrane-cytoskeleton 435 linker protein (radixin, spot 1557), and a protein involved in polymerization and depolymerization of actin 436 filaments (66KDa stress protein, spot 1669). These results are consistent with data from previous 437 studies showing that a temperature stress increases ciliary activity, filtration function and respiratory 438 process in gills of Mytilus edulis (Tomanek, 2012). Those changes are accompanied by cell network 439 remodeling. Thus, the cellular traffic category is represented by the sorting nexin 6-like (upregulation, 440 spot 1851) which participates in protein recycling and also in retrograde transport of cargo proteins from 441 endosomes to the trans-Golgi network. This response remains moderate but indicates architectural and 442 transport cellular redesign for adaptation to thermal exposure (Fields et al., 2012). Finally, a wide range 443 of cytoskeletal proteins were observed among the identified DAPs, including other proteins involved in 444 assembly and maintenance of epithelial cells such as tropomodulin 3 (spot 1973), gelsolin (spot 1909) 445 and a predicted centrosomal protein of 135 kDa (spot 1437), the latter being the only one to show a 446 decrease in abundance in comparison with the controls. As discussed above, changes in the 447 cytoskeleton have already been identified in studies examining heat stress in mussels, and in addition 448 to adaptations to cell stress, they may reflect cell proliferation requirements.

Facing thermal stress implies an energy cost that requires cellular energy mobilization (Tomanek, 2012; Somero, 2020). Our findings provide several clues to such demands (Table 2 and Fig. 4): firstly, a rise of cytosolic malate dehydrogenase (spot 2078); secondly, an increase in several mitochondrial actors, namely a NADH ubiquinone oxidoreductase 75kDa (core subunit of respiratory chain complex I, spot 1578), a succinate dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] flavoprotein subunit (major catalytic subunit of respiratory chain complex II, spot 1616), a glutamate dehydrogenase (mitochondrial matrix enzyme involved in glutamine anaplerosis by catalyzing the oxidative deamination of glutamate to alphaketoglutarate and ammonia, spot 1735) and prohibitin (spot 2244), mainly involved in mitochondria
biogenesis and activity (Signorile et al., 2019). These results suggest an increase in mitochondrial
metabolism, *i.e.* an enhanced energy supply capacity. This point will be further discussed in the following
section.

460

3.3. Omics data comparison is consistent with enhanced energy supply supporting a persistent cellular stress response.

Although qRT-PCR and proteomic analyses were conducted independently, it is attractive to compare them in order to seek consistency and gain a clearer insight into the cellular processes involved in the response to heat stress.

466 In this study, a point-by-point comparison results in a significant but expected discrepancy. Hence, only 467 4 actors are common to both data sets (HSP90, HSC71, HSPA5 and cytosolic malate dehydrogenase); 468 none of them exhibited an identical variation (*i.e.* up/down regulation). Two elements can be raised. 469 First, discrepancy between transcriptomic and proteomic responses has been frequently observed and 470 is fairly widely accepted (Romero et al., 2019). This phenomenon is linked to regulation mechanisms 471 that occur between pre-RNA synthesis and mature protein production (post-transcriptional and post-472 translational regulations). Moreover, degradation can modulate protein turnover. Second, the size of the 473 two sets of data are not similar because they were not obtained using the same strategy, with gene 474 expression from selected targets whereas 2DE proteomics is a non-targeted approach.

475 As mentioned above, our study presents different results for candidates followed in transcriptomics and 476 proteomics. However, the integration of the two levels of data can lead to interesting hypotheses. 477 Synthetically, we observed a protein response to heat stress at the protein level, certainly related to the 478 need to maintain protein homeostasis under elevated temperature conditions. At the transcriptomic and 479 proteomic levels, energy metabolism appears to be stimulated, probably to ensure the energy cost of 480 sustaining the chronic heat stress response. It is important to note that HSP protein expression, while 481 often induced in acute stress responses, can also be maintained in more mild or low-level chronic types 482 of stress to accomplish its protective functions (Pei et al., 2012; Ortega et al., 2019; Zhan et al., 2019). 483 This observation is reinforced by the increased abundance of the two proteins, TRAP1 (spot 1588) and 484 prohibitin (spot 2244), which both participate in the protection and maintenance of mitochondrial 485 function. Furthermore, the qPCR results suggest a general decrease in transcription, which is consistent 486 with a lasting presence of chaperones specialized in the response to thermal stress and, more broadly, 487 to cellular stress. The high level of stress chaperones after 28 days of exposure may therefore reflect 488 less protein degradation. Since the protein turnover is the result of a balance between synthesis and 489 degradation, by reducing degradation in parallel with a decrease in transcription, there is conservation 490 of the general level of proteins, and thereby, of protein homeostasis. This hypothesis is consistent with 491 the absence of any proteasomal component in the DAPs identified at the proteomic level. The decreased 492 abundance of two proteins implicated in post-transcriptional regulation process strengthens this 493 hypothesis: namely, RNA-binding protein 8A (spot 2377), component of the spliceosome required for 494 pre-mRNA splicing and the heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein L (spot 1661), involved in the 495 formation, packaging, processing, and function of mRNAs.

496

497 4. Conclusion

Taken together, our results indicate that mussels from the Kerguelen islands have developed an adaptive response to temperature stress with three main characteristics: i) a long-lasting HSP response supported by ii) increase in energy capacities and iii) cytoskeleton modulations underlying cellular scaffolding and trafficking processes. The response remains moderate, which corresponds to mussels in good physiological condition, *i.e.* living in a low impact site, exposed to slight thermal stress.

503

Blue mussels are sentinel species used all over the world and there would be a particular interest in integrating subarctic mussels in environmental studies: thanks to their low level of contamination, they constitute a well-preserved equivalent to conventionally monitored populations living in degraded environments. Finally, this would also be an opportunity to gain insight into the impact of solely Global Change on intertidal organisms and test the following hypothesis and its consequences: the gradual temperature rise might lead to adaptation where basal levels of proteins implicated in heat stress response are higher, conferring a greater tolerance to stress at the cost of higher energy demand.

511

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822 Figure captions

823 Figure 1: Experimental design.

Control tank water was maintained at 7.5°C. Test tank water temperature ranged from 7.5°C at T0 to 20°C at T28. Mussels were sampled at T0 and T28 for gene expression (Gene exp., n=10) and at T28

- 826 for 2DE analysis (Proteom., n=8).
- 827

828 Figure 2: Gene selection based on the VIP (Variable Importance in the Projection) values.

The PLS-DA (Partial Least Square Discriminant Analysis) was performed on the relative gene expressions of 51 selected genes in the 37 exposed individuals (10 for each conditions à 7.5°C, 9 at T0 for 20°C and 8 at T28 for 20°C). **A.** Exposure conditions were plotted on the factorial plane combining the two first axes of the PLS-DA, explaining 60% of the total variance. Ellipses correspond to a 95% confidence interval for individual distribution exposed in each condition. Lines connect each data point (individual location on the factorial plane) to the gravity center of the exposure condition; **B.** Variables were plotted on a correlation circle, giving the correlation of each variable with the axes of the PLS-DA.

836

837 Figure 3: Distribution of genotypes among exposure conditions.

Factorial plane on the two first axes of the PCA (Principal Component Analysis) on the individual x gene
expression table (37 lines, 51 rows). Individuals are grouped according to the exposure time and
temperature. UNK refers to the individual whose genotype is unknown.

841

Figure 4: Global protein interaction of the gill proteome of *Mytilus edulis platensis* under mild stress.

Protein-protein interactions predicted using STRING database for the differentially abundant proteins (DAP). Nodes are the DAPs described in Table 2. Interactions are shown by the lines which connect each node. Black circled nodes represent protein involved in the "Cellular Response to Heat Stress" reactome pathway.



850 Fig. 1



851

852 Fig. 2



854 Fig. 3



855

856 Fig. 4

Table 1. Values of mRNA expression of the different genes in gills of control individuals and exposed to thermal stress
(exposed 20°C). VIP values calculated in PLS analysis. Only significant results are presented (VIP>1). Non-significant
results are shown in Table S2.

Gene	Control 7.5°C	Exposed 20°C	VIP
MT20	-1,65	2,4	2,22
ATP synth	-1,07	1,45	1,7
Glyc phos	1,45	-3,72	1,45
Aconitase	1,54	-5,62	1,44
IK cytokine	1,26	1,11	1,36
HSP60	-1,75	-1,21	1,33
HFI	1,28	1,52	1,33
TPI	1,72	1,29	1,31
Ficolin 1	1,39	-1,21	1,29
Prot kin A	1,16	-1,14	1,19
HSP24	2,57	1,37	1,19
MT10	1,68	-1,17	1,17
OctDH	1,64	1,1	1,15
HSP90	1,04	-1,15	1,14
Enolase	1,18	-1,31	1,1
Aldolase	1,61	-1,57	1,09
GSTsigma	-1,19	-4,32	1,05

Spot Number	obs Mr (Da)	obs pl	Ratio	Identification	Abbreviation
ID1600	72686	5.78	260%		
ID2378	21109	5.33	234%		
ID1557	82031	5.33	183%	Radixin	RDX
ID1448	119923	5.78	176%	Neutral alpha-glucosidase AB	GANAB
ID1973	38812	4.97	166%	Tropomodulin-3	TMOD3
ID1796	50618	5.78	145%		
ID1699	60397	6.76	136%	Serine-tRNA ligase, cytoplasmic	SARS 1
ID1756	55609	5.32	132%	Heat shock protein 56	FKBB4
ID1632	69964	5.79	124%		
ID1616	71464	5.56	114%	Succinate dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] flavoprotein subunit, mitochondrial	SDHA
ID1536	88992	5.00	106%	Heat shock protein 90 A1	HSP90AA1
ID1851	46233	6.05	106%	Sorting nexin 6	SNX6
ID1599	73619	5.58	85%	Heat shock protein 70	HSPA4
ID1656	69872	5.05	83%	Galectin	LGALS
ID1588	76523	5.34	82%	Heat shock protein 75 kDa, mitochondrial	TRAP1
ID1669	63860	6.77	80%	Actin-interacting protein 1,66 kDa stress protein	WDR1
ID1578	77961	5.32	75%	NADH-ubiquinone oxidoreductase 75 kDa subunit, mitochondrial	NDUFS1
ID1587	74975	6.05	70%	Long-chain-fatty-acidCoA ligase 1	ACSL1
ID2045	34710	8.00	69%		
ID1735	55712	7.10	61%	Glutamate dehydrogenase, mitochondrial	GLUD1
ID1785	49985	6.05	53%	RuvB-like 1	RUVBL1
ID1909	42203	4.83	52%	Gelsolin	GSN
ID1454	110405	4.94	42%	Heat shock protein 90 B1	HSP90AB1
ID1917	41315	5.60	41%	Heat shock protein 40	DNAJB11
ID1552	78605	4.98	41%	Heat shock protein 70 protein 5	HSPA5
ID2244	25927	5.33	41%	Prohibitin	PBH
ID1738	55602	5.85	40%	Fascin	FSCN1
ID1608	69940	5.28	39%	Heat shock cognate 71	HSPA8
ID2287	23857	5.15	35%	Rho GDP-dissociation inhibitor 1	ARHGDIA
ID2001	36624	6.00	32%		
ID2078	33100	6.00	31%	Malate dehydrogenase, cytoplasmic	mdh1
ID1721	53457	5.18	29%	Tubulin alpha-1 A chain	TUBA1A
ID1913	39362	5.32	25%	Actin beta chain	ACTB
ID2194	27756	4.56	21%	14-3-3 protein epsilon	YWHAE
ID1911	41744	6.30	-30%	Beta-ureidopropionase	UPB1
ID2009	36800	5.60	-36%		
ID2016	35479	8.00	-37%	Arginine kinase-like protein-1	ARGK1
ID2054	34759	5.60	-43%		
ID2377	20994	4.99	-46%	RNA-binding protein 8A	RBM8A
ID2030	35626	5.60	-48%		
ID2238	25992	7.50	-52%	L-Xvlulose reductase	DCXR
ID2230	26288	6.15	-52%	C9orf135 protein	C9orf135
ID2349	22468	7.63	-53%	Peroxiredoxin	PRDX
ID2241	26073	7.00	-5/%	Peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase B	PPIB
ID2393	21064	8.00	-60%	Unnamed protein product	
ID2360	21674	5.27	-640/		
ID2222	26845	5.70	-66%		
ID1437	136826	5.56	-60%	Centrosomal protein of 135 kDa, predicted	CEP135
ID1661	67272	7 41	-60%	Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein I	HNRNPI
	5.2.12		-09%		
				1	

Table 2. Differentially abundant proteins (p<0.01) after thermal stress exposure

Spot numbers as assigned in Figure S1. Ratio correspond to variation in % (T28-test/T28-control). Idenfications were performed by Xtandem analyses on spectra obtained by tandem mass spectrometry (For details see Table S3). Mr: molecular mass; pl: isoelectric point; obs: observed value on gel.