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Title: Biotic and abiotic factors influencing zooplankton vertical distribution in Lake Huron

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Corresponding Author: Dr. Carly J. Nowicki,

Corresponding Author's Institution: University of Toledo

First Author: Carly J. Nowicki

Order of Authors: Carly J. Nowicki; David B Bunnell, PhD; Patricia M Armenio; David M Warner, PhD; Henry A Vanderploeg, PhD; Joann F Cavaletto; Christine M Mayer; Jean V Adams

Abstract: The vertical distribution of zooplankton can have substantial influence on trophic structure in freshwater systems, particularly by determining spatial overlap for predator/prey dynamics and influencing energy transfer. The zooplankton community in some of the Laurentian Great Lakes has undergone changes in composition and declines in total biomass, especially after 2003. Mechanisms underlying these zooplankton changes remain poorly understood, in part, because few studies have described their vertical distributions during daytime and nighttime conditions or evaluated the extent to which predation, resources, or environmental conditions could explain their distribution patterns. Within multiple 24-hour periods during July through October 2012 in Lake Huron, we conducted daytime and nighttime sampling of zooplankton, and measured food (chlorophyll-a), temperature, light (Secchi disk depth), and planktivory (biomass of *Bythotrephes longimanus* and *Mysis diluviana*). We used linear mixed models to determine whether the densities for 22 zooplankton taxa varied between day and night in the epi-, meta-, and hypolimnion. For eight taxa, higher epilimnetic densities were observed at night than during the day; for four of these taxa a general linear model revealed these patterns were best explained by biomass of *Bythotrephes longimanus* (*Leptodiaptomus ashlandi*) or *Mysis diluviana* (*Leptodiaptomus minutus*) or Secchi disk depth (*Diacyclops thomasi*, cyclopoid copepodites). By investigating the potential effects of both biotic and abiotic variables on the vertical distribution of crustacean zooplankton and rotifers, we provide descriptions of the Great Lakes zooplankton community and discuss how future changes in food web dynamics or climate change may alter zooplankton distribution in freshwater environments.

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Robert Hecky

Editor

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June 1, 2017

RE: Revision submission for Journal of Great Lakes Research, Ms. Ref. No.: GLR-D-16-00188R2

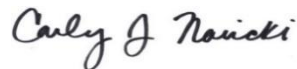
Dear Dr. Hecky,

Thank you for the opportunity to revise our manuscript entitled ***Biotic and abiotic factors influencing zooplankton vertical distribution in Lake Huron*** by Carly J. Nowicki, David B. Bunnell, Patricia M. Armenio, David M. Warner, Henry A. Vanderploeg, Joann F. Cavaletto, Christine M. Mayer, and Jean V. Adams for publication in the *Journal of Great Lakes Research*.

We have carefully addressed the comments and suggestions provided by the Associate Editor. After consideration, we agreed with the editor's assessment to average zooplankton densities in the hypolimnion. We reran our analysis with the average and updated all figures to reflect these new values. There were no changes with our statistical results. Also, we address all minor comments. We are confident that you will find the manuscript satisfactory for publication.

The submitted manuscript has been approved by all authors and none of the authors have declared a conflict of interest in completing this study. This manuscript has not been published elsewhere and we believe that the *Journal of Great Lakes Research* is the ideal publication for this manuscript.

Sincerely,



Carly J. Nowicki

Primary Address:

College of Natural and Social Sciences

Madonna University

36600 Schoolcraft Road

Livonia, MI 48150

734-432-5517

Email: cnowicki@madonna.edu

Response to Associate Editor's comments:

Thank you for addressing the concerns of the reviewers. I believe you now have a solid analysis of zooplankton data that is important for our understanding of ecosystem changes in Lake Huron. I still have a few suggestions that I would like you to address before we can accept this paper.

I do have one concern about the methods. On line 228 you state that you summed the densities in the two hypolimnion samples at the deep station. These are volumetric densities and you should therefore average them, not sum them. If you did sum those densities, you may need to rerun the analyses with the average (or perhaps skip the deep hypolimnion sample if you want to be more consistent with the shallow stations). I do not think this will make a large change in the results, but do not know.

Response: We agree with the editor's assessment. In our revision, we reran the analyses after averaging densities in the upper and lower hypolimnion. This changed our hypolimnion densities and we updated all figures to reflect the new values. However, there were no changes in our statistical results. The Methods section was revised to include the average.

I also have the following minor comments with line number:

Line 26 Abstract. Zooplankton communities have not changed in all Laurentian Great Lakes (in particular Superior, but also others depending on the time frame you refer to). Please reword.

Response: The sentence was reworded to "The zooplankton community in some of the Laurentian Great Lakes has undergone changes in composition and declines in total biomass, especially after 2003."

Paragraphs about factors affecting DVM: Overall a nice section. I still had a little problem with the difference between proximate and ultimate factors. For example, I was a little surprised at inclusion of light and temperature effects separately to the effect of light and temperature on your main hypothesis of DVM being a tradeoff between predation rate and growth rates. Light is discussed as a synchronized migration with moon light using a paper from a Brazilian lake. Is that migration different from avoidance of visual predators? There is a section on UV light both here and in the discussion, and UV could be important perhaps, but can you back that up with information on UV penetration in Lake Huron? I think those data must be available. Most UV light papers are from smaller, soft-water lakes if I remember this correctly.

Response: We acknowledge the close link between light and water clarity and visual predator avoidance. In the Introduction, we modified this section (lines 83-89) to better describe this relationship and acknowledge the proximate effect of light. Rejas et al. 2007 was also reviewed and the migration of species with moon light was associated with the predator avoidance hypothesis; therefore, this sentence was modified to reflect this association. Also, we performed a more thorough literature search for data on UV penetration in Lake Huron during the time of our study (2012) but the literature was very limited. We found one study that measured UV radiation penetration in Lakes Huron, Erie and Ontario (Smith et al. 2004) and one UV attenuation study in Lake Erie (Smith et al. 2011). The Smith et al. (2004) study found that photic depths of UV radiation varied widely from 6-12m in Lake Huron. This information was added to the discussion section (lines 481-484).

Line 104 what is meant with "endured these disturbances", probably do not need that part of the sentence.

Response: This part of the sentence was removed.

Line 125-127. I am surprised by this sentence. Vertical distribution have been studied for many years so are there really no studies on the effect of biotic and abiotic factors on distributions? Some of these studies may be from the 1960s or earlier. In Lake Ontario, there have been studies by Ora Johannsson, Sprules, and Watkins. Megard studied distributions with acoustics in Lake Superior. I would also check in the lake books edited by Munawar. If you consider mysids a zooplankton there are plenty of studies in these lakes. Did you review these studies and found them inadequate?

Response: This sentence was not clearly written. Our intent was to highlight that there are limited studies that have examined the concurrent effects of several abiotic and biotic factors on zooplankton distribution patterns in Lake Huron. Many studies have examined one or two factors at a time, but very few have analyzed the effects of temperature, water clarity, food availability, Mysis predation, and Bythotrephes predation within the same study and during both night and daytime sampling. We reworded this sentence to hopefully make this clearer.

Line 139 - you also consider temperature as an abiotic factor, but do not list an expectation - would you get larger or smaller differences between day and night in the epilimnion if the epilimnetic temperature is high? Would be nice to know your expectations.

Response: We added a sentence at this location (line 142) describing our temperature expectations.

Line 159. The reviewers wanted to see some explanation for how temperature profiles were used to determine the strata, not only that they were used.

Response: Using the temperature profiles, the thermocline was identified and used to define the metalimnion. This information was added to the sentence.

Line 180 - what instar are you talking about? Instars of Bythotrephes? Copepods?

Response: This sentence is referring to instars of Bythotrephes. However, the 600 individual zooplankton that were counted excluded Bythotrephes. Therefore, "instar" was removed in this location.

Line 271. You present more complex models with higher AIC than the minimum, suggesting you continued looking at the potential models beyond reaching the minimum AIC value. I think that is appropriate, so change the method description. I would like to see all models within $\Delta AIC < 2$ (some suggest using $\Delta AIC < 5$ or 7) of the minimum value.

Response: We changed the method description to explain that we reported models that were considered but disregarded in the final step based on higher AIC_C values. We have received the editor's suggestion to include all models within $\Delta AIC < 2$ of the minimum value; however, given that all of the models within $AIC_C < 2$ would be too numerous and complicated, we decided to omit these results from the manuscript.

Line 300 spelling of epilimnetic

Response: Fixed

Line 303 - did you specify dry weight earlier? Remind readers that the biomass is in dry weight here.

Response: Yes, dry weight was specified in the Methods section. We added "dry weight" to this sentence.

Line 360 - are you limiting the comparison to Lake Huron and Michigan? If so state that.

Response: The sentence was reworded to reflect only Lake Huron and Lake Michigan.

Line 362 - Predator avoidance is the ultimate reason, light is the proximate factor to avoid visual predators. These are not mutually exclusive. Water clarity is a light effect.

Response: This sentence was reworded to tone down our statement that water clarity may be an independent factor in zooplankton DVM.

Line 284 missing parenthesis around 2015

Response: Fixed.

Line 396. Statement sounds like Barbiero studied rotifers for some years after 2006. This is not the case. Adjust text accordingly.

Response: The timeframe for the Barbiero and Warren study was added to the sentence.

Line 413 light

Response: Fixed

Line 430. Not only did Byth biomass not help predicting zooplankton distributions, the one instance it was significant appear to be in the opposite of predictions. That is not strong support for a Byth effect. What do you mean by "excluded *Daphnia mendotae*"?

*Response: This sentence was a typo from the previous revision (prior to the new analysis). The sentence was reworded and reference to *Daphnia mendotae* was removed.*

Line 434 - Also fish abundance and distribution. Can add some information on your investigations of fish here.

Response: We removed the acoustic information from the paper, given the fact that fish were only sampled in 50% of the months.

Line 435 - Repeated sentence?

Response: Yes, this repeated sentence was removed.

Line 463. Bythotrepes is a visual predator. So why would not their presence in the epilimnion lead to a larger proportion of the copepod in the epi at night?

Response: We agree with the editor's assessment, and, therefore, removed the last part of this sentence.

Line 495 What would you expect to be the effect of temperature? Some zooplankton prefer cold temperature, some do not. High epilimnetic temperature would lead to low movement into the epi of some copepods and more movement by some cladocerans (my expectations). This makes is hard to predict community effect.

Response: Our predictions of the effects of temperature were added to both the Introduction (line 142) and the Discussion (lines 497- 498).

References - check for consistent capitalization

Response: Done.

Table 3 table headings - You have a statement about epilimnetic differences for meta and hypolimnion samples. Remove the word epilimnetic.

Response: Done. Good catch!

Table 4 - State if all or only some two way interactions were included in the analyses

Response: At each step, only predictor variables could be added, no interaction terms. This information was added to the caption for Table 4.

Line 685 untransformation of the least square mean. Should it be untransformed least square mean? Have not heard the term untransformation before.

Response: Changed to untransformed.

References:

Smith, R. E., Allen, C. D., & Charlton, M. N. (2004). Dissolved organic matter and ultraviolet radiation penetration in the Laurentian Great Lakes and tributary waters. *Journal of Great Lakes Research*, 30(3), 367-380.

Smith, R. E. H., Furgal, J. A., Charlton, M. N., Greenberg, B. M., Hiriart, V., & Marwood, C. (1999). Attenuation of ultraviolet radiation in a large lake with low dissolved organic matter concentrations. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*, 56(8), 1351-1361.

1 **Title:** Biotic and abiotic factors influencing zooplankton vertical distribution in Lake Huron

2

3 Carly J. Nowicki^{a*}, David B. Bunnell^b, Patricia M. Armenio^b David M. Warner^b, Henry A.

4 Vanderploeg^c, Joann F. Cavaletto^c, Christine M. Mayer^a, Jean V. Adams^b

5

6 ^aUniversity of Toledo, Department of Environmental Science, 2801 West Bancroft Street,

7 Toledo, Ohio, USA

8 ^bU.S. Geological Survey, Great Lakes Science Center, 1451 Green Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan,

9 USA

10 ^cNational Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Great Lakes Environmental Research

11 Laboratory, 4840 S. State Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

12

13 * Corresponding author:

14 Office address:

15 Carly J. Nowicki

16 College of Natural and Social Sciences

17 Madonna University

18 36600 Schoolcraft Road

19 Livonia, MI 48150

20 734-432-5517

21 Email: cnowicki@madonna.edu

22

23 Abstract

24 The vertical distribution of zooplankton can have substantial influence on trophic
25 structure in freshwater systems, particularly by determining spatial overlap for predator/prey
26 dynamics and influencing energy transfer. The zooplankton community in some of the
27 Laurentian Great Lakes has undergone changes in composition and declines in total biomass,
28 especially after 2003. Mechanisms underlying these zooplankton changes remain poorly
29 understood, in part, because few studies have described their vertical distributions during
30 daytime and nighttime conditions or evaluated the extent to which predation, resources, or
31 environmental conditions could explain their distribution patterns. Within multiple 24-hour
32 periods during July through October 2012 in Lake Huron, we conducted daytime and nighttime
33 sampling of zooplankton, and measured food (chlorophyll-*a*), temperature, light (Secchi disk
34 depth), and planktivory (biomass of *Bythotrephes longimanus* and *Mysis diluviana*). We used
35 linear mixed models to determine whether the densities for 22 zooplankton taxa varied between
36 day and night in the epi-, meta-, and hypolimnion. For eight taxa, higher epilimnetic densities
37 were observed at night than during the day; for four of these taxa a general linear model revealed
38 these patterns were best explained by biomass of *Bythotrephes longimanus* (*Leptodiatomus*
39 *ashlandi*) or *Mysis diluviana* (*Leptodiatomus minutus*) or Secchi disk depth (*Diacyclops*
40 *thomasi*, cyclopoid copepodites). By investigating the potential effects of both biotic and abiotic
41 variables on the vertical distribution of crustacean zooplankton and rotifers, we provide
42 descriptions of the Great Lakes zooplankton community and discuss how future changes in food
43 web dynamics or climate change may alter zooplankton distribution in freshwater environments.

44 **Keywords:** Invasive species; DVM; *Mysis*; *Bythotrephes*; rotifer; vertical migration

45 **Introduction**

46 Within a 24-hour period, zooplankton actively migrate within the water column to alter
47 spatial overlap with their food sources, predators, and other environmental variables (Balcer et
48 al., 1984; Loose and Dawidowicz, 1994; Peacor et al., 2005; Wells, 1960). For example, some
49 cladocerans (e.g., daphnids, bosminids, *Holopedium gibberum*) and cyclopoid copepods (e.g.,
50 *Diacyclops thomasi*) have been documented to undergo diel vertical migration (DVM),
51 descending during the day and ascending to surface waters at night (Hutchinson, 1967; Wells,
52 1960). These migrational patterns can influence trophic dynamics in freshwater systems because
53 zooplankton are vital conduits in the pelagic food web, linking primary producers and higher
54 trophic levels (Carpenter and Kitchell, 1996). The primary mechanism believed to regulate
55 vertical migration is light-mediated predator avoidance (Dodson, 1990; Lampert, 1993), with
56 descent associated with escaping predation under higher light levels, and ascent associated with
57 exploitation of food and warmer water temperatures when the risk of predation is lower. In other
58 words, zooplankton vertical migration is likely driven by a tradeoff between higher predation
59 risk in the surface waters and decreased capacity for growth and reproduction in colder, deeper
60 waters (Loose and Dawidowicz, 1994; Pangle et al., 2007). Other environmental variables,
61 however, also have been hypothesized to influence zooplankton vertical migration, such as
62 temperature (Cooke et al., 2008) , resource availability (Johnsen and Jakobsen, 1987; Makinol et
63 al., 1996), light (Rejas et al., 2007), and UV levels (Fischer et al., 2006; Rhode et al., 2001).

64 The Laurentian Great Lakes offer relatively unique habitat among freshwater lakes, given
65 their deep depths (exceeding 100 m) and mix of native and nonindigenous planktivores that

66 could influence vertical migration patterns of herbivorous and omnivorous zooplankton species.
67 The vertical migration patterns of predatory invertebrates are relatively well described. The
68 native invertebrate planktivore, *Mysis diluviana* (opossum shrimp, hereafter called *Mysis*) has
69 demonstrated its own light-mediated pattern of DVM (Beeton and Bowers, 1982; Beeton, 1960;
70 Bowers, 1988), remaining near the bottom of the lake during the day and then moving upward in
71 the water column to feed at night (Beeton, 1960). These movements can influence night-time
72 movements of their prey, driving some zooplankton species further upward towards the surface
73 (Peacor et al., 2005). Alternatively, the nonindigenous predatory cladoceran, *Bythotrephes*
74 *longimanus* Leydig (spiny water flea, hereafter called *Bythotrephes*), is an epilimnetic predator
75 that has also been documented to influence zooplankton vertical position in both the laboratory
76 (Pangle and Peacor, 2006) and in the field (Bourdeau et al., 2011; Bourdeau et al., 2015). In the
77 Great Lakes, *Bythotrephes* occupies the epilimnion during both day and night in the summer
78 months (Lehman and Caceres, 1993; Ptáčníková et al., 2015), but has been documented to occur
79 ~15-20 m deeper (into the metalimnion) during the day and then ascending to the epilimnion at
80 night during autumn (Lehman and Caceres, 1993). In smaller Canadian lakes, *Bythotrephes*
81 migration was relatively weak, especially in the presence of hypolimnetic planktivores (Young
82 and Yan, 2008).

83 Other environmental factors beyond planktivore distribution can also vary with depth and
84 influence the vertical distribution of zooplankton in the Great Lakes. For example, several
85 *Daphnia* species will escape to deeper vertical layers to avoid damaging ultraviolet (UV)
86 radiation at the surface during the day (Rhode et al., 2001). Light and water clarity may also be
87 proximate factors for influencing migration associated with the avoidance of visual predators

88 (Bourdeau et al., 2011; Bourdeau et al., 2015). Even some species will synchronize movements
89 and emergence with lunar phases to avoid predation (Rejas et al., 2007). Food and temperature
90 are also significant influential factors driving many zooplankton to ascend to warmer,
91 chlorophyll-rich surface strata at night (Bourdeau et al., 2015; Johnsen and Jakobsen, 1987).
92 Williamston et al. (2011) hypothesized that water transparency plays a key role in regulating
93 these major drivers of zooplankton DVM. Moreover, temperature gradients may be more
94 influential than food on zooplankton vertical distribution (Loose and Dawidowicz, 1994) as
95 colder temperatures in the hypolimnion are less metabolically favorable for many zooplankton
96 species (Bourdeau et al., 2015; Dawidowicz and Loose, 1992) and may cause zooplankton to rise
97 in the water column. Even those species that tend to occupy the relatively warm waters near the
98 interface of the epilimnion and metalimnion, such as *Leptodiptomus ashlandi* and
99 *Leptodiptomus minutus*, exhibit a nighttime migration toward the even warmer surface waters
100 (Balcer et al., 1984). As a result, only by simultaneously measuring both biotic and abiotic
101 characteristics of the food web during both day and night can scientists deduce which factors
102 influence the vertical distribution of zooplankton species in the Great Lakes during both daytime
103 and nighttime conditions.

104 Over the last century, most of the Laurentian Great Lakes have undergone substantial
105 anthropogenic disturbances, including proliferation of nonindigenous species, nutrient
106 fluctuations, and changing climate (Bunnell et al., 2014; Gronewold et al., 2013). Lake Huron,
107 the second largest of the Great Lakes in terms of surface area (Beeton, 1984), is unique in that
108 near coincident changes in phytoplankton, zooplankton, and forage fishes occurred around 2003
109 that have persisted to the present. The establishment of dreissenid mussels in Lake Huron in

110 1989 (Griffiths et al., 1991), along with mandated reductions in phosphorus loading, caused
111 significant reductions in nutrients (Bunnell et al. 2014), declining pelagic primary production
112 (Fahnenstiel et al., 1995a; Fahnenstiel et al., 1995b; Reavie et al., 2014), and increases in water
113 clarity (Bunnell et al. 2014). Total zooplankton biomass declined 70% after 2003, relative to
114 1998 - 2002 (Barbiero et al., 2012), and cladoceran and cyclopoid copepods reached record-low
115 biomass (Barbiero et al., 2009). At higher trophic levels, the collapse of alewife and the Chinook
116 salmon fishery around 2003 was due to excessive predation by salmonines (He et al., 2014), and
117 reductions in lower trophic level biomass (Kao et al., 2016). With biological changes occurring
118 at all levels of the ecosystem, Lake Huron provides an appropriate case-study to examine how
119 multiple trophic factors (top-down and bottom-up) and other environmental variables likely
120 influence food web structure, including vertical distributions of the zooplankton community.
121 One application of this study could be increased knowledge of the extent to which light-
122 dependent planktivores, such as fish larvae or *Bythotrephes*, overlap with rotifers or crustacean
123 zooplankton in the epilimnion and metalimnion during daytime hours.

124 Although many recent studies in the Great Lakes have described the vertical distribution
125 patterns of crustacean zooplankton during the daytime hours (Bourdeau et al., 2011; Bourdeau et
126 al., 2015), nighttime distribution patterns have been rarely documented. We know of few studies
127 in the Great Lakes that were designed to determine the influence of multiple abiotic factors in
128 conjunction with planktivores on both the diurnal and nocturnal vertical distribution of
129 zooplankton. Furthermore, the description of vertical distribution patterns of rotifer in the Great
130 Lakes is limited. Herein, our objective was to (1) determine the densities of crustacean
131 zooplankton and rotifers in three vertical strata (epilimnion, metalimnion, hypolimnion) during

132 the day and night; (2) within a given stratum, determine which zooplankton species exhibited
133 differences in densities between the day and night; (3) when density differences within a stratum
134 occurred, evaluating how the biomass of planktivores (i.e., *Bythotrephes*, *Mysis*), chlorophyll a,
135 water temperature, and Secchi depth could explain the patterns.

136 Given the importance of non-consumptive (e.g., Pangle et al., 2007) and consumptive
137 (e.g., Bunnell et al., 2011) effects of *Bythotrephes*, we hypothesized that higher *Bythotrephes*
138 densities would cause Lake Huron zooplankton to be more abundant in the epilimnion at night
139 than during the day. Similarly, we hypothesized that higher densities of *Mysis* would induce
140 zooplankton to move up into the epilimnion at night (Peacor et al., 2005). In terms of abiotic
141 factors, we believed clearer water (i.e., deeper Secchi depths) could cause zooplankton to
142 migrate well below the epilimnion during the day, while warmer epilimnetic temperatures may
143 cause some species to move towards the surface at night, and contribute to higher differences in
144 epilimnetic densities between day and night.

145

146 **Methods**

147 *Field survey design*

148 We conducted monthly sampling events from July through October 2012 of zooplankton,
149 *Bythotrephes*, *Mysis*, and water quality parameters. Planktivorous fish were estimated during
150 July and September only, and therefore were not included in our analyses but can be considered
151 present at all sampling sites. Sampling occurred offshore at two ports, Thunder Bay and

152 Hammond Bay, Lake Huron, and at two site depths (46 m and 82 m) at each port (Supplemental
153 Figure 1). These sites were selected as part of ongoing surveys for the Cooperative Science and
154 Monitoring Initiative. Daytime and nighttime sampling occurred between approximately 0845-
155 2115 hours and 2130-0413 hours, respectively. At the start of each sampling event, vertical
156 whole water column profiles of temperature and fluorescence were determined using an
157 instrument equipped with a CTD (conductivity-temperature-depth) sensor (Seabird), and a
158 fluorometer (TurnerScufa Cyclops 7 or WET Labs ECO-AFL/FL). The instrument was
159 acclimated for one minute just below the surface of the water before descent to the substrate
160 surface. Downcasts of temperature and fluorescence profiles (averaged each 1 m) were used to
161 determine the location of vertical strata where zooplankton could be sampled with a closing net;
162 temperature was the primary determination of the vertical strata, as the thermocline was
163 identified and used to define the metalimnion. Three strata (epilimnion, metalimnion, and
164 hypolimnion) were established for the 46 m sites, and four strata (epilimnion, metalimnion,
165 upper hypolimnion, and lower hypolimnion) were established for the 82 m sites, with the
166 exception of Thunder Bay in September where the 82 m site was only sampled at three strata
167 (epilimnion, metalimnion, and hypolimnion). Water clarity was estimated by recording the
168 Secchi disk depth on the shaded side of the research vessel during daytime only. Light was also
169 measured as photosynthetically active radiation at most sampling locations; however,
170 instrumentation varied among sampling events and some measurements were confounded by
171 instrument malfunction. As a result, we used Secchi depth as an indicator of daytime light
172 conditions.

173

174 *Zooplankton (and planktivore) vertical position*

175 Density (number per m³) of crustacean zooplankton and rotifers was estimated in each
176 vertical stratum during day and night with a closing 64- μ m mesh net (0.5 m diameter) equipped
177 with a flowmeter. Duplicate samples were taken from pre-determined start and end depths of
178 each stratum (see Table 1 and Table 2). After the animals were washed down to the cod end, the
179 sample was bathed for 2 - 5 min in antacid to narcotize organisms before being preserved in 5%
180 formalin. In the laboratory, samples were stained with Phloxine B for ease of species
181 identification. In the laboratory, each sample was thoroughly mixed and then subdivided into 1
182 ml aliquots, and at least 600 individual zooplankton (crustacean zooplankton and rotifers,
183 excluding *Bythotrephes*) per sample were counted and identified to the lowest taxonomic level
184 possible and to life stage (i.e., adult, copepodite, nauplii) under a dissecting microscope. Given
185 the considerable abundance of invasive dreissenid mussel veligers in Lake Huron, they were not
186 included in our count to 600 so that we could better estimate densities of rotifers and nauplii. If
187 fewer than 100 total macrocrustaceans (i.e., cladocerans and adult and copepodite copepods)
188 were counted, additional 1 ml aliquots of just those macrocrustaceans were counted so that at
189 least 100 macrocrustaceans were counted in the sample. This method ensured that densities of
190 major macrocrustacean taxa in Lake Huron were accurately represented. The abundance of
191 *Bythotrephes* (and other rare predator cladocerans) was determined by counting all individuals in
192 the entire preserved sample.

193

194 *Planktivore biomass*

195 In addition to estimating their stratum-specific densities with a 64- μm mesh zooplankton
196 net, *Bythotrephes* were also collected during the day using whole water column vertical
197 zooplankton tows (153- μm mesh, 0.5 m diameter), also bathed in antacid for 2 - 5 minutes and
198 preserved in 5% formalin. We assumed this larger-mesh sample better represented *Bythotrephes*
199 biomass in the entire water column. In the laboratory, formalin was strained from the sample
200 and all contents were put into a glass dish to count all individuals from the sample. Spine
201 lengths of up to 20 individuals per instar were measured. Mysids were collected at night in
202 triplicate with whole water column vertical tows using 1000- μm mesh nets (1 m diameter). The
203 cod ends were bathed in antacid for 2 - 5 minutes to narcotize the organisms and the animals
204 were then preserved in 90% ethanol. In the laboratory, all the individuals in the sample were
205 counted and measured (using ImagePro Plus 6.2 software) from the tip of the rostrum to the cleft
206 of the telson. *Bythotrephes* and *Mysis* biomass were estimated by applying the appropriate
207 length:dry weight regression (Garton et al., 1990; Rudstam et al., 2008) and multiplying mean
208 weight by areal density to calculate areal biomass (dry mg/m^2).

209

210 *Abiotic variables*

211 Food availability was characterized by chlorophyll-*a* ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$) concentrations within each
212 stratum. To measure chlorophyll-*a*, a Niskin bottle collected water samples within each stratum,
213 either coincident or just following deployment of the CTD instrument. Chlorophyll-*a* was
214 extracted from each water sample by first filtering 100 - 200 mL of water through a glass filter
215 (47 mm GF/F) immediately after collection, and then freezing the filter in aluminum foil for no

216 longer than 3 weeks. In the laboratory, samples were extracted with N, N-dimethylformamide
217 following Speziale et al. (1984), and analyzed fluorometrically under low light levels on a 10AU
218 fluorometer (Turner Designs). Temperature profiles were used to examine how temperature may
219 affect zooplankton vertical distribution by calculating the mean temperature of each stratum and
220 location of the thermocline. The thermocline depth was defined as the midpoint of two points of
221 the temperature profile where the slope was at a maximum, indicating a rapid change in
222 temperature (Fiedler, 2010).

223

224 *Statistical analyses*

225 The abundance ($\#/m^3$) of each crustacean zooplankton taxon was calculated for each
226 replicate strata sample in each time of the day. For copepods, species counts represent adult life
227 stages; copepodites were summed as either calanoid or cyclopoid, and nauplii were grouped as a
228 different taxon for all copepods. For *Bythotrephes*, we summed all instars in our counts. Using
229 the volume sampled for each replicate, we calculated the mean density of the two replicate
230 samples in each stratum and time of day. Because we were interested in comparing the vertical
231 distributions across both bottom depths (that had different numbers of hypolimnetic strata), we
232 then averaged the mean densities for upper and lower hypolimnion strata at the 82 m sites.

233 To determine whether the density of zooplankton in each vertical stratum varied between
234 day and night in our samples ($N = 96$ across all ports, bottom depths, months, time of day, and
235 strata), we used a linear mixed model (SAS Institute Version 9.4) estimated with the restricted
236 maximum likelihood. For a given taxon, we first normalized the data by adding the smallest

237 non-zero density to all densities and then transformed (natural log) the density estimate. We
238 included several predictor variables in the model that we hypothesized could influence density,
239 including fixed (time of day, vertical stratum, bottom depth, time of day×stratum interaction) and
240 random (port×month interaction) effects. We were most interested in whether or not the time of
241 day×stratum interaction was significant for each taxon, and reported the Type III F-statistic and
242 associated P-value. A significant interaction would indicate that densities in a given stratum
243 varied between day and night. To further investigate, we reported the predicted density (as a
244 least squares mean, LSMean) for a given time of day and stratum (i.e., across all months, ports,
245 and depths). We made pairwise comparisons among the LSMean densities for each of the three
246 strata to determine if densities differ between day and night (experiment-wise error rate of $\alpha =$
247 0.05).

248 For taxa with a significant time of day×stratum interaction, the density was always higher
249 in the epilimnion stratum at night than during the day; there was no consistent pattern for any of
250 the other vertical strata. As a result, we fit general linear models (GLM) to determine which
251 predictor variables most parsimoniously explained variation in differences in epilimnetic
252 densities (Epi_Diff) between the day and night for these select taxa. The predictor variables
253 were: (1) *Bythotrephes* biomass (Bytho), (2) *Mysis* biomass (Mysis), (3) mean epilimnetic
254 temperature (Temp), (4) mean epilimnetic chlorophyll (Chl), and (5) Secchi disk depth (Secchi).
255 Because we were interested in attributing observed differences to these abiotic and abiotic
256 effects, we did not include identifiers of space (ports and bottom depths) nor time (month) as
257 predictors in our model.

258 We considered including site depth (46 m or 82 m) as predictor variable given the
259 potential for epilimnion in the 82 m site to be deeper than the epilimnion in the 46 m site. But,
260 because the depth of the epilimnion was not predictably deeper at 82 m than at 46 m (see Tables
261 1, 2), we did not include bottom depth as a predictor variable. We also considered metalimnetic
262 temperature, the difference between epilimnetic and metalimnetic temperature, and thermocline
263 depth as potential predictor variables, but they were each correlated with epilimnetic
264 temperature. We also considered metalimnetic chlorophyll and the difference between
265 epilimnetic and metalimnetic chlorophyll as potential predictor variables but they were both
266 correlated with epilimnetic chlorophyll. We evaluated potential multicollinearity among the
267 final predictor variables by calculating variance inflation factors (threshold of $VIF > 4$) and
268 condition indices (threshold of $CI > 30$) for all combinations of variables.

269 We used a stepwise model selection process whereby Akaike's information criterion
270 (corrected for small sample size, AIC_C) was used to determine whether additional variables
271 should be added to the model (SAS Software, Version 9.4). The stepwise selection procedure
272 started with only the estimated intercept, and the first predictor variable was added based on the
273 lowest AIC_C . If the intercept-only model had the lowest AIC_C then the selection process was
274 stopped; otherwise, predictor variables were added and removed until the model with the lowest
275 AIC_C was determined. We also reported the model that was considered, but disregarded, in the
276 final step for inclusion based on its higher AIC_C value.

277 For taxa without significant time of day×stratum interaction terms, we sought to
278 determine how zooplankton densities varied between the three strata independent of time of day.

279 Hence, we removed the time of day×stratum interaction from the linear mixed model, and
280 reported the Type III F-statistic and associated P-value for the effect of stratum, as well as the
281 predicted density (as LSMeans) for each stratum. We made pairwise comparisons of the LSMeans
282 densities among the three strata (experiment-wise error rate, $\alpha = 0.05$).

283

284 **Results**

285 *Day versus night differences in stratum densities*

286 Twenty two of the 46 zooplankton taxa we identified during the study were sufficiently
287 numerous in the samples to include in the linear mixed models (see Table 3). Eight of these 22
288 taxa had a significant time of day×stratum interaction term (Figure 1, Table 3), which indicated
289 that the densities in the vertical strata differed between day and night. These eight taxa included
290 three cladocerans (*Bosmina* spp., *Daphnia galeata mendotae*, and *Bythotrephes*), three calanoid
291 copepod species (*L. ashlandi*, *L. minutus*, and *Epischura lacustris*) and two cyclopoid copepods
292 (*Diacyclops thomasi*, cyclopoid copepodites). Pairwise comparisons revealed higher densities in
293 the epilimnion during the night than during the day for all eight taxa. These results were
294 complemented by higher densities during the day in the metalimnion for three taxa (*L. minutus*,
295 *E. lacustris*, *D. thomasi*) and in the hypolimnion for four taxa (*D. galeata mendotae*, *Bosmina*
296 spp., *D. thomasi*, cyclopoid copepodites).

297

298 *Can predictor variables explain day vs. night differences in the epilimnion?*

299 Estimates for predictor variables varied across sampling sites and within vertical strata
300 (Tables 1, 2). Maximum chlorophyll-*a* concentrations primarily occurred within the epilimnion
301 or metalimnion. At the 46 m sites, the maximum chlorophyll-*a* occurred at a vertical depth range
302 of 5.5 – 37.5 m, whereas the range was 7.5 – 45 m at the 82 m sites. For both depths, the
303 maximum chlorophyll-*a* value was shallowest in October. Temperature profiles showed distinct
304 temperature ranges for the epilimnion (13.7 – 22.2 °C) and hypolimnion (4.49 – 6.96 °C), and
305 epilimnetic temperatures decreased from July to October. The depth of the thermocline ranged
306 15 – 38 m, with the greatest depths occurring in October at both the 46 m and the 82 m sites.
307 Secchi disk depth ranged 9.5 – 17.5 m at the 46 m site and 10.5 – 18 m at the 82 m site.

308 *Bythotrephes* biomass (dry weight) ranged from 15.7 – 66.3 mg/m² (122.9 – 435.7
309 individuals/m²; Table 2). In Hammond Bay, *Bythotrephes* had the highest biomass in September
310 (54.6 mg/m², 82 m), and in Thunder Bay *Bythotrephes* biomass peaked in July (66.3 mg/m², 82
311 m; Table 2). *Mysis* biomass had a wide range from 0.44-113.35 mg/m², with a peak (113.35
312 mg/m²) occurring in August (82 m) at Hammond Bay, and July (95.61 mg/m²; 82 m) at Thunder
313 Bay.

314 For the eight taxa with a significant interaction term for time of day×stratum, we used a
315 GLM to seek to explain variation in the difference between nighttime and daytime epilimnetic
316 densities. The model selection process for *L. ashlandi* revealed the most parsimonious model to
317 include only *Bythotrephes* biomass among the possible predictor variables (Table 4, Figure 2a),
318 and a scatterplot between *Bythotrephes* biomass and the difference in night and day epilimnetic
319 densities illustrated a weak inverse relationship. This inverse pattern was opposite from our

320 expectation of higher *Bythotrephes* densities causing higher differences in day versus night
321 epilimnetic densities if high *Bythotrephes* densities were inducing a large proportion of *L.*
322 *ashlandi* to migrate below the epilimnion during the day. For *L. minutus*, the most parsimonious
323 model included only *Mysis* (Table 4, Figure 2b), and the scatterplot revealed greater differences
324 in epilimnetic densities when *Mysis* densities increased. Higher density differences could result
325 from *Mysis* causing more *L. minutus* to migrate up to the epilimnion at night to avoid planktivory
326 as *Mysis* ascends the water column. For both *D. thomasi* and cyclopoid copepodites (most of
327 which were likely immature *D. thomasi*), the most parsimonious model included Secchi disk
328 depth (Table 4, Figure 2c,d). The greatest differences in epilimnetic densities were associated
329 with higher Secchi depths, which could be interpreted as more *D. thomasi* migrating to sub-
330 epilimnetic waters during the day when light penetration was higher. For the other four
331 zooplankton taxa, however, model selection revealed that the intercept-only model was most
332 parsimonious and none of the predictor variables helped explain variation in differences in
333 epilimnetic densities between day and night (Table 4).

334

335 *Vertical position of other zooplankton*

336 For those zooplankton taxa without a significant interaction term for time of day×stratum,
337 our study afforded an opportunity to describe the predominate vertical layer that was occupied
338 based on day and night sampling. For 9 out of the 10 rotifer genera, densities varied among the
339 three vertical layers (Figure 3, Table 3). For most genera, densities did not differ between the
340 epilimnion and metalimnion (e.g., *Ascomorpha*, *Colletheca*, *Conochilus*, *Gastropus*, *Keratella*,

341 *Polyarthra*, *Synchaeta*), but densities in those two layers were higher than in the hypolimnion.
342 For only two genera (i.e., *Asplanchna*, *Ploesoma*) were densities in the epilimnion significantly
343 higher than those in the metalimnion (and hypolimnion). *Kellicottia* individuals were unique
344 given that the highest densities were in the metalimnion (Fig. 3f), and densities in the
345 hypolimnion were higher than in the epilimnion.

346 We also evaluated whether densities varied among vertical strata for four other
347 crustacean zooplankton taxa that, similar to the rotifers, did not differ in their densities between
348 day and night for a given stratum (Table 3). The densities of *Limnocalanus macrurus* were
349 highest in the hypolimnion, intermediate in the metalimnion, and lowest in the epilimnion (Fig.
350 4a). *Leptodiatomus sicilis* was somewhat similar, except that its highest densities occurred in
351 the hypolimnion and metalimnion, which were not different from one another, but both higher
352 than those observed in the epilimnion (Figure 4b). Calanoid copepodites, conversely, attained
353 their highest densities in the epilimnion and metalimnion (Figure 4c). Finally, copepod nauplii
354 were estimated to have similarly high densities across the three strata (Figure 4d).

355

356 **Discussion**

357 Day and nighttime vertical distribution patterns of zooplankton can strongly influence
358 trophic interactions (i.e., predator-prey) and energy dynamics in freshwater ecosystems.
359 Therefore, describing zooplankton vertical distribution patterns in the Laurentian Great Lakes,
360 particularly following dramatic system perturbations (i.e., invasive species, nutrient fluctuation,
361 climate change), is critical for improved understanding of trophic interactions within the food

362 web. Our results revealed eight zooplankton taxa exhibited differences in daytime and nighttime
363 densities within at least one vertical stratum: *Daphnia galeata mendotae*, *Bosmina* spp.
364 *Bythotrephes*, *Leptodiatomus ashlandi*, *Leptodiatomus minutus*, *Epischura lacustris*,
365 *Diacyclops thomasi*, and cyclopoid copepodites. These results complement previous research
366 on daytime vertical distributions patterns of zooplankton in Lake Huron and Lake Michigan
367 (Beeton, 1960; Bourdeau et al., 2011; Bourdeau et al., 2015; Peacor et al., 2005). Furthermore,
368 while predator avoidance has been touted as the primary driver of zooplankton DVM (Dodson,
369 1990; Lampert, 1993) and changes in zooplankton daytime vertical migration in the Great Lakes
370 (Bourdeau et al., 2011; Bourdeau et al., 2015; Peacor et al., 2005), our results suggest that other
371 factors (i.e., water clarity) may play a role in influencing zooplankton vertical distribution in the
372 Great Lakes.

373

374 *Reexamining zooplankton densities in Lake Huron*

375 A comparison of our results to historical findings in Great Lakes reveals significant
376 changes in zooplankton vertical distribution over time. In Lake Michigan in the 1950s, *Daphnia*
377 were rarely found below the metalimnion (~ 10 – 20 m) during the day and migrated to the
378 surface (< 5 m) a few hours after sunset (Wells, 1960). Haney and Hall (1975) also observed
379 similar distribution patterns and magnitudes in *Daphnia* in Michigan inland lakes. However, our
380 results showed that *Daphnia* in Lake Huron in 2012 had relatively high densities in the
381 hypolimnion (~ 30 – 80 m) during the day. These results coincide with other recent studies that
382 found deeper daytime distributions (~ 30 m) of *Daphnia galeata mendotae* in Lakes Michigan

383 and Erie (Bourdeau et al., 2015; Pangle et al., 2007). A similar shift was also observed in
384 *Bosmina*, with our results revealing greater densities of *Bosmina* in the hypolimnion than the epi-
385 or metalimnion during the day; however, historical values determined this species to be found at
386 ~ 10 – 20 m during the day (Wells, 1960). Wells (1960) also found that diaptomids (*L. ashlandi*
387 and *L. minutus*) strongly favored the upper strata, with high abundance in the epilimnion during
388 the day and an increase in abundance at the surface (< 5 m) at night, and *L. ashlandi* was found
389 at slightly deeper depths than *L. minutus*. In contrast, our study found that both species had
390 higher densities in the metalimnion during the day. Bourdeau et al. (2015) also observed deeper
391 daytime distributions for these species in Lake Michigan, with *L. ashlandi* being found as deep
392 as ~37 m and *L. minutus* as deep as ~27 m. Of the species examined in our study, there appears
393 to be an overall downward shift in zooplankton day- and nighttime vertical distributions, which
394 likely causes an increase in vertical movements in Lake Huron.

395 In addition to examining species with changes in diurnal distribution, our results provide
396 a necessary update of mean densities for important crustacean zooplankton and rotifers in Lake
397 Huron. Barbiero et al. (2012) reported an overall decline in the zooplankton community in Lake
398 Huron from 2003 to 2006, accompanied by a large increase in *Limnocalanus macrurus*
399 dominating the hypolimnion and an increase in calanoid copepods. Similarly, in 2012
400 *Limnocalanus macrurus* had its highest densities in the hypolimnion, while calanoid copepodites
401 had higher mean densities in the epilimnion and metalimnion. Furthermore, dramatic shifts have
402 been reported in the rotifer community, with *Conochilus* becoming the dominant species, in data
403 spanning 1983-2006 (Barbiero and Warren, 2011). Our results showed that *Conochilus*
404 continued to dominate the rotifer community in 2012 with densities more than 20 times the

405 density of any other rotifer species examined in our study. Historically, *Keratella* was the
406 dominant rotifer, but declined after the *Bythotrephes* invasion (Barbiero and Warren, 2011), and
407 this species remained uncommon in Lake Huron in 2012 (< 15 individuals in the water column
408 for each port, depth, and month).

409 Unfortunately, it is difficult to evaluate changes in rotifer vertical distribution compared
410 to past observations because of a lack of layered rotifer studies in the Great Lakes. Our results
411 filled a knowledge gap in rotifer vertical distribution. In general, rotifers were most concentrated
412 in the epilimnion and metalimnion in Lake Huron; only *Synchaeta* was just as abundant in the
413 hypolimnion as in the other two layers. In the EPA monitoring program in August, rotifer
414 densities are only estimated in the top 20 meters of water, which corresponded to our epilimnion
415 samples in August 2012. Our results illustrate that rotifer densities remain relatively abundant in
416 waters deeper than 20 m, even for the most abundant *Conochilus*. One implication of these
417 results for higher trophic levels is the high densities of rotifers in the epi- and metalimnion could
418 conceivably reduce the probability of starvation for first-feeding fish larvae that otherwise could
419 have limited small crustacean zooplankton to consume given the declines of small cladocerans
420 and cyclopoid copepods in Lake Huron (Barbiero et al. 2009).

421

422 *Biotic and abiotic factors influencing zooplankton distribution*

423 More recently, several studies in the Great Lakes have aimed to explain changes in
424 zooplankton abundance and distribution, and our work complements these studies by
425 concurrently examining previously studied factors (i.e., *Bythotrephes* and light) in conjunction

426 with new factors (i.e., *Mysis*). One primary focus of recent studies examining changes in
427 zooplankton abundance and position in the water column is the presence of *Bythotrephes*. Since
428 its invasion in the Great Lakes in the 1980s, *Bythotrephes* has had both predatory and non-
429 consumptive effects on the zooplankton community. In Lake Michigan, *Bythotrephes* was
430 implicated in altering the composition of the daphnid community to favor dominance of *Daphnia*
431 *galeata mendotae*, in part because of its superior ability to migrate to deeper waters and avoid
432 predation by *Bythotrephes* (Lehman and Caceres, 1993). These patterns were further verified by
433 laboratory studies that found *Bythotrephes* kairmones to induce vertical migration of *Daphnia*
434 *galeata mendotae* to deeper, colder depths and large reductions in population growth (Pangle
435 and Peacor, 2006). Similarly, these nonlethal effects of *Bythotrephes* have been observed in
436 copepods and other cladoceran species in Lakes Michigan and Erie (Bourdeau et al., 2011;
437 Pangle et al., 2007). We predicted that *Bythotrephes* biomass would be a significant factor in
438 zooplankton day versus nighttime epilimnetic densities in Lake Huron in 2012, given evidence
439 that *Bythotrephes* abundance can explain up to 50% of the variation in the vertical distribution of
440 zooplankton in Lake Michigan when compared with other factors (i.e., stratum temperatures,
441 light attenuation, and sampling date; Bourdeau et al. 2015). However, our results were
442 inconsistent with previous ones because *Bythotrephes* biomass only accounted for variation in
443 day versus night epilimnetic densities for one species, *L. ashlandi*, in Lake Huron in 2012.

444 Several factors may explain our inability to detect a *Bythotrephes* effect, including
445 insufficiently low biomass of *Bythotrephes* to elicit zooplankton responses, or influence of other
446 predators (i.e., *Mysis*) that were not considered in previous studies. The maximum *Bythotrephes*
447 biomass estimated from Lake Huron in 2012 (54.0 mg/m²) was lower than those observed in

448 previous studies. Bunnell et al. (2011) reported maximum *Bythotrephes* biomass to be 72 mg/m²
449 in Lake Huron in 2007. In Lake Michigan in 2004 - 2007, *Bythotrephes* abundance peaked in
450 late July at approximately 85 mg/m² at a 45 m site and at about 280 mg/m² at a 110 m site
451 (Bourdeau et al., 2011). Furthermore, on average, *Mysis* biomass (53.52 mg/m²) was more than
452 1.5 times greater than *Bythotrephes* (35.32 mg/m²), although *Bythotrephes* has a higher per
453 capita consumption rate (Bunnell et al. 2011). The low *Bythotrephes* abundance observed during
454 our study may have facilitated the native planktivore, *Mysis*, having a greater effect on
455 zooplankton (i.e., *L. minutus*) vertical distribution in Lake Huron.

456 Despite mysids co-evolving with native zooplankton in the Great Lakes, the possibility
457 that *Mysis* influences zooplankton migration patterns has only rarely been evaluated, and our
458 study provides further evidence of the role of *Mysis* in inducing zooplankton migration. In
459 laboratory experiments, *Daphnia* responded to kairomones of *Mysis* by changing their vertical
460 position in the water column (Peacor et al., 2005); however, these patterns have not been well
461 documented in the field. *Mysis* undergoes extensive DVM driven by its sensitivity to light, and in
462 Lakes Huron and Michigan, *Mysis* remains at the bottom of the lake during the day, and ascends
463 through the metalimnion at night (Beeton, 1960). The extent of *Mysis* vertical movement in the
464 water column, along with its consumption of copepods (Johannsson et al., 2001; O'Malley and
465 Bunnell, 2014), could induce zooplankton species that occupy the hypolimnion or metalimnion
466 during the day to move up to shallower waters at night. Previous studies indicate *L. minutus*
467 primarily occupies the epilimnion and metalimnion during the day, but then migrates up to
468 shallower epilimnetic waters at night (Balcer et al., 1984; Barbiero and Tuchman, 2004a). Our
469 study suggests that the upward nighttime migration of *Mysis* (~27 m) through the metalimnion,

470 may be driving the vertical nighttime ascent of *L. minutus*. In fact, *L. minutus* density had almost
471 a 4-fold increase in the epilimnion from day to night.

472 In addition to planktivory, water clarity (i.e., Secchi depth) also influenced zooplankton
473 epilimnetic densities in Lake Huron. Increased water clarity can increase the amount of light
474 penetrating the water column. Ambient levels of UV radiation can be lethal to some zooplankton
475 (Hunstman, 1924), and several *Daphnia* species will escape to deeper strata to avoid UV
476 radiation at the surface (Rhode et al., 2001). In fact, UV radiation in different strata could be
477 more intense and drive some species further down into the water column, resulting in a deeper
478 average daytime depth (see Fischer et al., 2006; Leech and Williamson, 2001; Rhode et al.,
479 2001). Our models could not explain the differences in day versus night densities of *Daphnia*
480 *galeata mendotae* in Lake Huron, but perhaps inclusion of UV radiation would have been more
481 helpful. Ultraviolet radiation in Lake Huron can vary and photic depths of UV light have been
482 reported from 6 – 12m (Smith et al. 2004). However, significant changes in water clarity due to
483 increased filtration by dreissenid mussels may have increase UV penetration by the time our
484 study was conducted in 2012. For instance, secchi depth did explain differences in epilimnetic
485 densities of *D. thomasi* and cyclopoid copepodites during the day (low) and night (high). Given
486 the increasing water transparency associated with the proliferation of invasive mussels (Barbiero
487 and Tuchman, 2004b; MacIsaac, 1996), our results are important for predicting future changes in
488 zooplankton vertical distribution as water clarity continues to fluctuate in the Great Lakes. In
489 fact, Williamson et al. (2011) emphasizes a central role of water transparency in controlling the
490 influence of predation, resource availability, temperature, and light penetration on zooplankton
491 vertical migration patterns. This “transparency-regulatory hypothesis” provides a more flexible

492 explanation for variation in zooplankton vertical distribution that includes multiple driving
493 factors. Our results fit within this type of framework and demonstrate that many different
494 variables are influencing zooplankton vertical distribution in Lake Huron.

495 Surprisingly, epilimnion temperature and mean chlorophyll in the epilimnion were not
496 selected for any best fit models. We predicted that warmer epilimnetic temperatures would
497 increase migration of most species examined in this study, based on previous research. Prior
498 evidence suggests that warmer surface waters are a primary driver of zooplankton upward
499 migration (Dawidowicz and Loose, 1992; Loose and Dawidowicz, 1994; Williamson et al.,
500 1996; Winder et al., 2003). Also, recent studies in Lake Michigan found that *Daphnia*
501 migrational patterns depended heavily on the location of the thermocline and *Daphnia*
502 consistently migrated to a temperature range of 5 - 8 °C during the day and then ascended to
503 warmer epilimnetic waters at night (Vanderploeg et al., 2015). Likewise, hypolimnion
504 temperature was shown to influence the daytime depth of species that prefer warmer surface
505 waters such as nauplii, diaptomid copepodites, and *L. ashlandi* (Bourdeau et al., 2015). However,
506 we did not observe any of these patterns in our study. Epilimnetic temperature had a relatively
507 narrow temperature range (14.6 – 22.2 °C), which may have limited the model's ability to
508 discern its effect on mean epilimnetic density. Also, studies outside of the Great Lakes have
509 showed that zooplankton vertical migration patterns are based on clear feeding patterns with
510 seasonal variation (Makinol et al., 1996), however our results did not show evidence of this
511 pattern for any of the species examined.

512

513 **Conclusion**

514 The characterization of zooplankton vertical distribution in large, deep freshwater
515 ecosystems and the factors that influence their patterns remains understudied. Our study was the
516 first to concurrently document daytime and nighttime densities of some zooplankton species in
517 Lake Huron and provide an important update on current zooplankton vertical densities and the
518 environmental factors influencing their distribution. Although measuring changes in
519 zooplankton community composition is important for interpreting and predicting ecological
520 changes in the food web, understanding how these animals move within the water column
521 provides improved understanding of vertical energy transfer. For example, the day and
522 nighttime position of different zooplankton species are needed to inform trophic models (e.g.,
523 bioenergetics, Ecopath) that require knowledge of predator/prey overlap. Our study suggests that
524 predation pressure and water clarity are important drivers that regulate zooplankton vertical
525 distribution. With the ongoing effects of invasive species, exacerbated by ongoing and predicted
526 changes in water transparency, it is important to understand both biotic and abiotic factors that
527 may influence the movement and distribution of secondary producers in freshwater systems, and
528 the impact these movements may have on the entire food web.

529

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536

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675

676 **Table 1.** Summary of abiotic and biotic variables associated with sampling zooplankton in
 677 vertical strata near Hammond Bay, Lake Huron in July-October 2012.

Month	Depth (m)	Secchi depth (m)	<i>Bythotrephes</i> (mg/m ²)	<i>Mysis</i> (mg/m ²)	Thermocline depth (m)	Layer name	Layer Depth	Mean Temp.	Chl-a
July	46	16.5	22.85	5.65	18	Epi	0-12	22.0	0.57
						Meta	12-24	14.0	0.56
						Hypo	24-44	4.7	0.61
	82	18	15.68	54.20	15	Epi	0-12	20.5	0.31
						Meta	12-22	12.2	0.55
						U. Hypo	22-60	5.3	3.24
L. Hypo						60-82	4.0	0.52	
Aug.	46	9.5	24.92	5.17	28	Epi	0-25	19.3	0.76
						Meta	26-33	8.3	0.56
						Hypo	34-42	5.0	0.20
	82	14	26.42	113.35	24	Epi	0-22	20.3	0.65
						Meta	23-40	9.9	1.06
						U. Hypo	41-60	5.3	0.50
L. Hypo	61-81	4.1	0.36						
Sept.	46	13	34.00	99.78	21	Epi	0-15	17.6	2.77
						Meta	16-30	11.8	4.22
						Hypo	31-44	5.7	4.51
	82	10.5	54.60	52.44	23	Epi	0-15	19.8	2.93
						Meta	15-32	8.9	7.18
						U. Hypo	32-55	4.8	3.92
L. Hypo	55-82	4.3	3.11						
Oct.	46	11	30.44	93.73	21	Epi	0-10	14.2	1.19
						Meta	11-28	9.8	0.66
						Hypo	29-41	4.5	0.34
	82	11.5	46.95	63.34	27	Epi	0-20	13.7	1.31
						Meta	21-30	9.0	1.15
						U. Hypo	31-55	4.5	0.38
L. Hypo	56-79	4.1	0.19						

678

679

684 **Table 3.** Summary of linear mixed model results to determine whether the density of
685 zooplankton in each vertical stratum varied between day and night (time of day×stratum
686 interaction); when significant, pairwise comparison results are shown for each layer (Epi. =
687 epilimnion, Meta. = metalimnion; Hypo. = Hypolimnion). For each taxa, we also report
688 whether the density of zooplankton varied between strata, independent of time of day.
689 Zooplankton taxa are ordered alphabetically within a coarse taxonomic category. Sampling
690 occurred during July-October, 2012, in Lake Huron.

Coarse zooplankton category	Zooplankton taxa	Time of day × stratum interaction effect		Do densities differ between day and night for these layers?			Vertical stratum effect	
		F statistic	P-value	Epi.	Meta.	Hypo.	F statistic	P-value
Cladoceran	<i>Bosmina longirostris</i>	27.61	<0.0001	Yes	No	Yes	20.46	<0.0001
	<i>Bythotrephes longimanus</i>	5.89	0.0041	Yes	No	No	70.20	<0.0001
	<i>Daphnia galeata mendotae</i>	74.96	<0.0001	Yes	No	Yes	10.37	0.0004
Copepod	calanoid copepodite	2.25	0.11	No	No	No	7.56	0.0010
	cyclopoid copepodite	13.58	<0.0001	Yes	No	Yes	37.06	<0.0001
	<i>Diacyclops thomasi</i>	44.52	<0.0001	Yes	Yes	Yes	10.35	<0.0001
	<i>Epischura lacustris</i>	17.39	<0.0001	Yes	Yes	No	35.12	<0.0001
	<i>Leptodiantomus ashlandi</i>	7.31	0.0012	Yes	No	No	53.47	<0.0001
	<i>Leptodiantomus minutus</i>	19.95	<0.0001	Yes	Yes	No	165.50	<0.0001
	<i>Leptodiantomus sicilis</i>	1.27	0.29	No	No	No	94.00	<0.0001
	<i>Limnocalanus macrurus</i>	0.94	0.40	No	No	No	51.42	<0.0001
nauplii	0.34	0.72	No	No	No	0.37	0.69	
Rotifer	<i>Ascomorpha</i> spp.	1.33	0.27	No	No	No	14.37	<0.0001
	<i>Asplanchna</i> spp.	0.06	0.94	No	No	No	40.40	<0.0001
	<i>Collotheca</i> spp.	0.15	0.86	No	No	No	57.76	<0.0001
	<i>Conochilus</i> spp.	0.58	0.57	No	No	No	52.99	<0.0001
	<i>Gastropus</i> spp.	0.43	0.65	No	No	No	17.88	<0.0001
	<i>Kellicottia</i> spp.	0.30	0.74	No	No	No	27.00	<0.0001
	<i>Keratella</i> spp.	0.94	0.40	No	No	No	12.67	<0.0001
	<i>Ploesoma</i> spp.	0.78	0.46	No	No	No	64.78	<0.0001
	<i>Polyarthra</i> spp.	0.25	0.78	No	No	No	20.07	<0.0001
<i>Synchaeta</i> spp.	1.64	0.20	Yes	No	No	0.42	0.66	

691

692 **Table 4.** Outcomes of the stepwise model selection process to determine the best fit model
693 explaining variation in differences in epilimnetic densities of zooplankton between day and night
694 in Lake Huron in 2012. At each step, only predictor variables could be added (i.e., no interaction
695 terms). The best fit model was determined by selecting the model with the lowest corrected
696 Akaike’s information criterion (AIC_C) among the following predictor variables: *Bythotrephes*
697 biomass (Bytho), *Mysis* biomass (Mysis), Chlorophyll *a* (Chl), mean epilimnetic temperature
698 (Temp), and Secchi disk depth (Secchi). The best fit model (identified by the lowest AIC_C) for
699 each zooplankton taxon is in bold. The last row for each taxon shows the model with the
700 additional variable (that led to the lowest AIC_C) that was considered before being rejected owing
701 to comparisons with the simpler model.

Species	Model	AIC _C
<i>Bosmina</i> spp.	intercept	33.30
	Chl	33.96
<i>Bythotrephes</i>	intercept	13.07
	Secchi	15.25
<i>Daphnia galeata mendotae</i>	intercept	42.04
	Mysis	43.31
<i>Leptodiaptomus ashlandi</i>	intercept	34.27
	Bytho	33.96
	Bytho+Secchi	35.29
<i>Leptodiaptomus minutus</i>	intercept	17.19
	Mysis	14.23
	Mysis+Bytho	16.78
<i>Epischura lacustris</i>	intercept	29.86
	Temp	31.95
<i>Diacyclops thomasi</i>	intercept	39.62
	Secchi	35.21
	Secchi+Mysis	36.21
<i>cyclopoid copepodites</i>	intercept	29.60
	Secchi	27.95
	Secchi+Temp	29.05

702

703

704 **Figure Captions**

705 **Figure 1.** Predicted mean density (untransformed least square mean) of daytime (open bars) and
706 nighttime (filled bars) zooplankton abundance as a function of vertical stratum (Epi =
707 Epilimnion, Meta = Metalimnion, Hypo = Hypolimnion) from samples collected at 46 and 82 m
708 sites near Thunder Bay and Hammond Bay, Lake Huron from July-October 2012. The plotted
709 zooplankton taxa (panels a-h) were the eight zooplankton taxa (of 22 tested) where a linear
710 mixed model identified a significant interaction between time of day×stratum. Asterisks
711 indicated where pairwise comparison of mean densities between daytime and nighttime (within a
712 stratum) revealed significant differences (experiment-wise error rate, $\alpha = 0.05$).

713

714 **Figure 2.** Scatter plots of predictor variables versus the difference in nighttime and daytime
715 epilimnetic zooplankton densities for four zooplankton taxa (panels a-d) from samples collected
716 at 46 and 82 m sites near Thunder Bay and Hammond Bay, Lake Huron from July-October 2012.
717 Only predictor variables that were selected during a stepwise model selection in a general linear
718 model are plotted (see Table 4). Vertical lines represent the predicted difference from the best fit
719 model.

720

721

722

723 **Figure 3.** Predicted mean density (untransformed least square mean) of rotifer abundance as a
724 function of vertical stratum (Epi = Epilimnion, Meta = Metalimnion, Hypo = Hypolimnion) from
725 samples collected at 46 and 82 m sites near Thunder Bay and Hammond Bay, Lake Huron from
726 July-October 2012. A linear mixed model for each of the plotted rotifer genera (panels a-j)
727 failed to identify a significant interaction between time of day×stratum (Table 4). For all taxa
728 but *Synchaeta* spp., mean densities varied among the three vertical strata (Table 4). Within each
729 panel, different letters above the bars indicate significant differences in mean density using
730 pairwise comparisons (experiment-wise error rate, $\alpha = 0.05$).

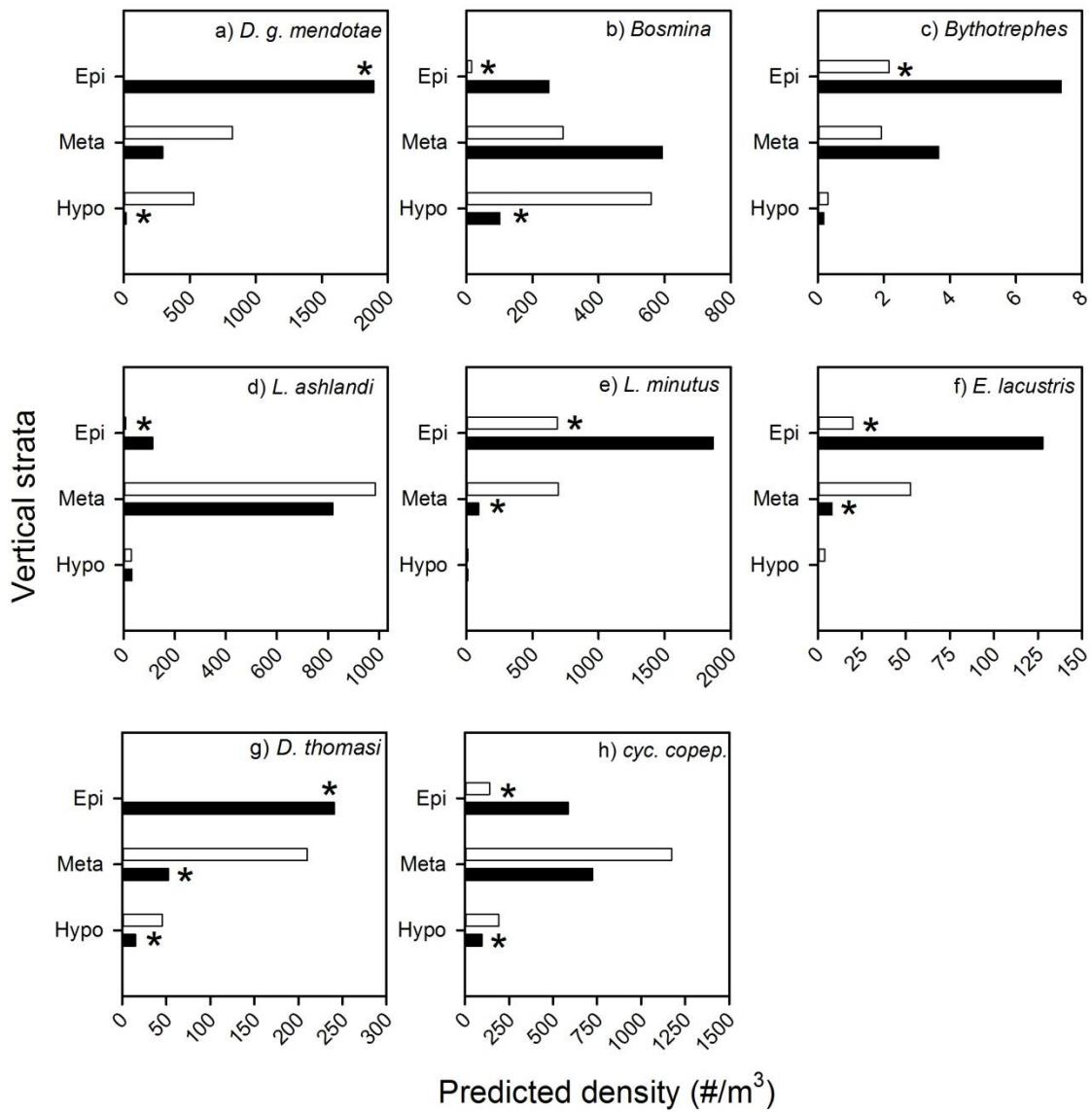
731

732 **Figure 4.** Predicted mean density (untransformed least square mean) of crustacean zooplankton
733 abundance as a function of vertical stratum (Epi = Epilimnion, Meta = Metalimnion, Hypo =
734 Hypolimnion) from samples collected at 46 and 82 m sites near Thunder Bay and Hammond
735 Bay, Lake Huron from July-October 2012. A linear mixed model for each of the plotted taxa
736 (panels a-d) failed to identify a significant interaction between time of day×stratum (Table 4).
737 For all taxa, mean densities varied among the three vertical strata. Within each panel, different
738 letters above the bars indicate significant differences in mean density using pairwise comparisons
739 (experiment-wise error rate, $\alpha = 0.05$).

740

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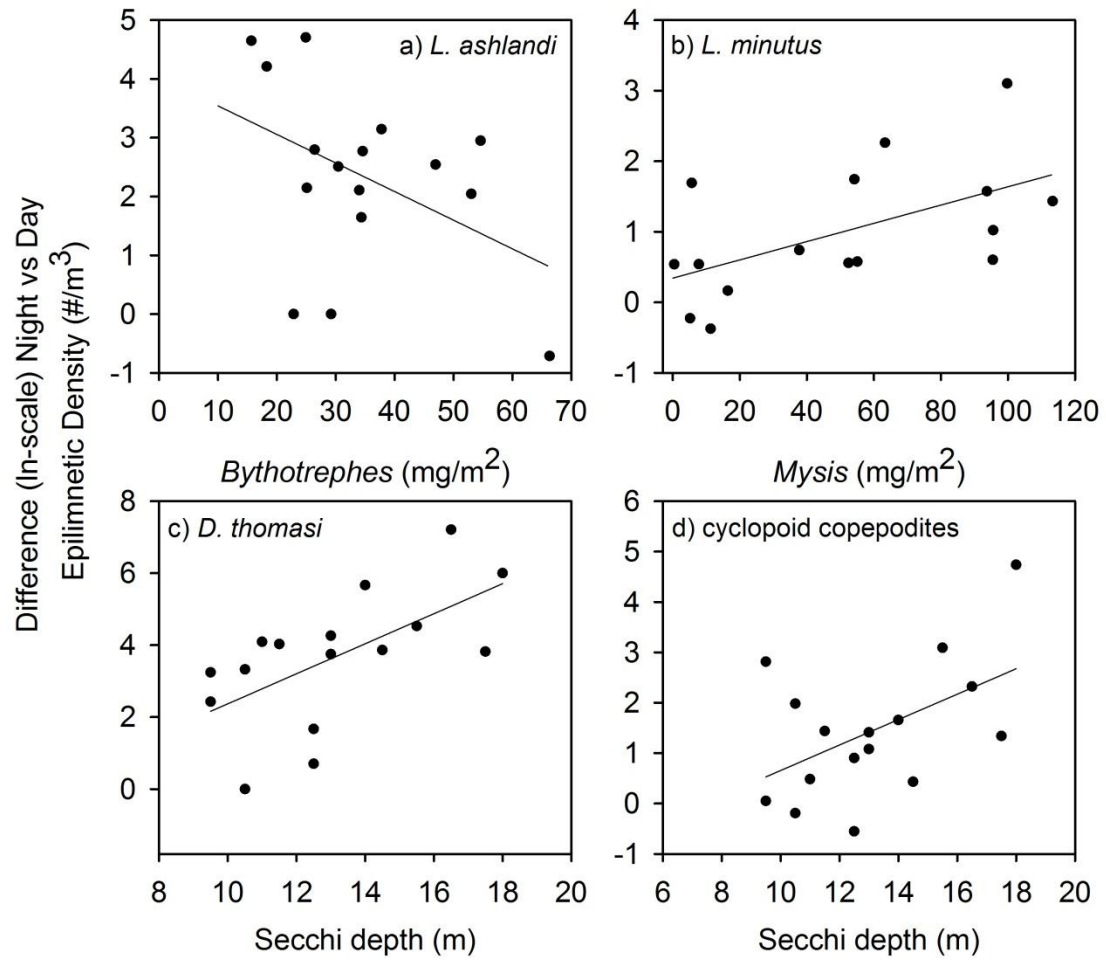
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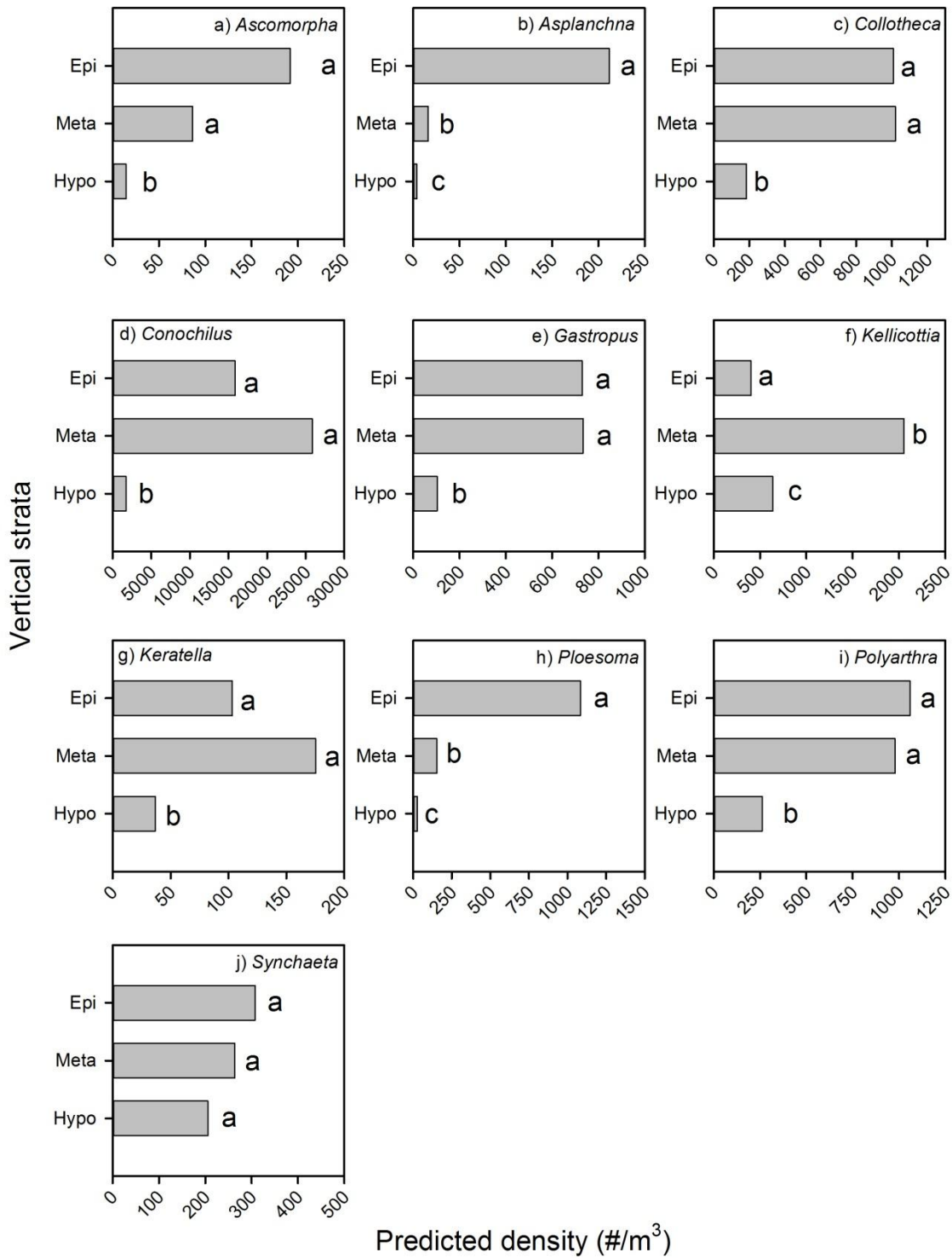
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745 Figure 1

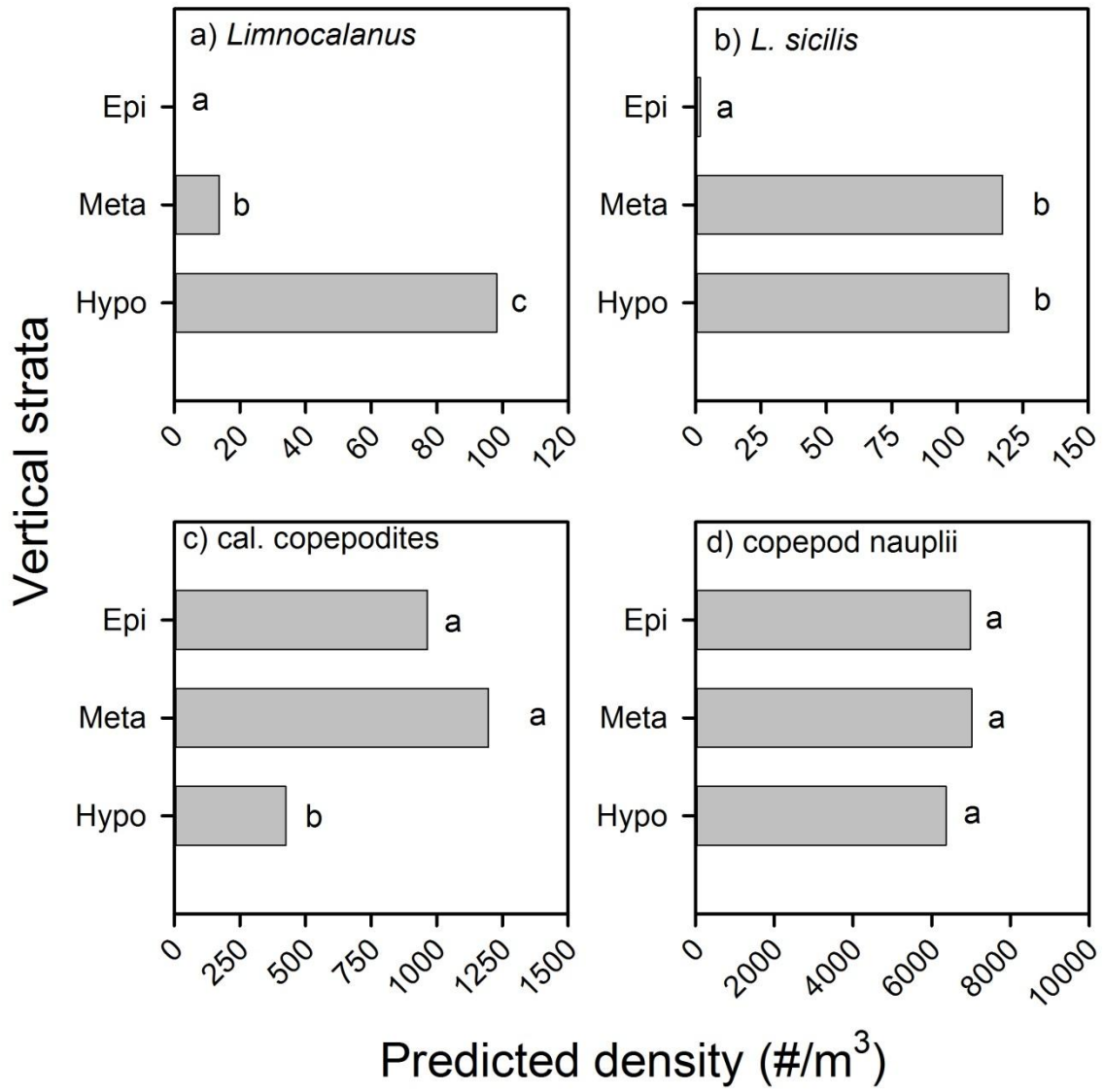


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747 Figure 2



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749 Figure 3



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751

752 Figure 4

Supplementary Figure 1

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