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7 Running head: R.J. CHAPINA *ET AL*: METABOLIC RATES OF MYSIDS AT THREE
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9 DIFFERENT CONDITIONS
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16 **Metabolic rates of *Neomysis americana* (Smith, 1873) (Mysida:**
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19 **Mysidae) from a temperate estuary vary in response to summer**
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21 **temperature and salinity conditions**
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58 **ABSTRACT**
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4 The mysid *Neomysis americana* (Smith, 1873) is native to shallow shelf waters and estuaries of
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6 the western Atlantic coast of North America. Despite the important role mysids such as *N.*
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8 *americana* play in estuarine ecosystems as both consumers and as prey for higher trophic levels,
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10 there is limited information on how metabolism influences their spatial ecology and habitat
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12 requirements. In tributaries of Chesapeake Bay, MD, USA, previous research has shown that
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14 summer water temperatures can approach the lethal upper tolerance limit for *N. americana*. We
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16 measured the per capita metabolic rate ($\mu\text{gO}_2 \text{ min}^{-1}$) of *N. americana* from the upper Patuxent
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18 River near Benedict, MD, a tributary of Chesapeake Bay in the laboratory to evaluate the
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20 metabolic response to salinity and temperature conditions that mysids experience in natural
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22 habitats. Sex-specific and diel patterns in metabolic rate were quantified. Metabolic rates did not
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24 differ between night and day and there was no significant difference in metabolic rate between
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26 males and females, exclusive of gravid females. Metabolic rates were lowest in salinity
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28 treatments of 2 and 8 at 29 °C, and highest in the salinity 2 treatment at 22 °C. Only temperature
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30 had a statistically significant, albeit unexpected, effect. This study shows that the metabolic
31
32 response of *N. americana* to temperature and salinity conditions is complex and plastic, and that
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34 metabolic rates can vary 3–4 fold within realistic summer temperature and salinity conditions. As
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36 environmental conditions continue to change, understanding metabolic response of mysids to
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38 realistic salinity and temperature conditions is necessary for understanding their distributions in
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40 temperate estuaries.
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53 **Key Words:** bioenergetics, Chesapeake Bay, crustaceans, estuaries, metabolism, mysids,
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57 INTRODUCTION 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65

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4 Mysids (Mysida) are malacostracan crustaceans that link multiple trophic pathways as
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6 omnivorous consumers, as prey for a wide range of vertebrate and invertebrate predators, and by
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8 transferring energy and materials across ecological boundaries through their vertical and
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10 horizontal migrations (Zargursky & Feller, 1985; Fockedey & Mees, 1999; Jumars, 2007;
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12 Winkler *et al.*, 2007; Latour *et al.*, 2008). Mysids undergo diel vertical migration, where the
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14 population remains near the bottom during daytime then disperses into the water column at night
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16 (Jumars, 2007). Their daily vertical migrations provide a route for energy and nutrient transfer
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18 between pelagic and benthic food webs (e.g., Pitt *et al.*, 2008; Woodland & Secor, 2013;
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20 Kiljunen *et al.*, 2020). Mysids, like all animals, disperse the energy they assimilate among
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22 respiratory needs (e.g., costs of maintenance of homeostasis and activity reflected in metabolic
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24 rates) and residual investments in growth and reproduction. There is a priority allocation of
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26 energy to respiration/metabolism, which can potentially lead to reductions in growth or
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28 reproduction when resources are limiting (e.g. Rudstam, 1989; Verslycke & Janssen, 2002).
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30 Understanding how the respiratory needs of mysids change in response to local environmental
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32 conditions can provide insights into which habitats or conditions are conducive to population
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34 growth, via relationships between maintenance metabolic expenditures and their population vital
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36 rates (e.g., survival, growth, reproduction).
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46 Abiotic factors in estuaries such as temperature and salinity can change drastically over
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48 space and time, and can have strong effects on animal bioenergetics, including mysids (Newell &
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50 Branch, 1980; Roast *et al.*, 1999) and possibly population and community structure (Dunson &
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52 Travis, 1991; Rowe, 2002). Estuarine mysids are often eurythermal and euryhaline (Mauchline,
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54 1980; Jumars, 2007). For example, evidence suggests that *Neomysis americana* (Smith, 1873),
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56 one of the most abundant coastal mysid taxa along the US Atlantic coast (Jumars, 2007), is
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4 commonly observed in shallow, estuarine habitats near the salt-front where summertime water
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6 temperatures and salinity conditions are dynamic (Schiariti *et al.*, 2006; Bouchard & Winkler,
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8 2018). In tributaries of Chesapeake Bay, US Atlantic coast, where summer water temperatures
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10 often approach 30 °C, *N. americana* is an abundant component of surface nighttime zooplankton
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12 communities (Fig. 1.). Individuals are vulnerable to incremental changes in ambient temperature
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14 above 30 °C, whereas increases of 1–2 °C above this threshold yield > 50% mortality (Mihursky
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16 & Kennedy, 1972). While *N. americana* is euryhaline, often inhabiting waters with salinities
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18 ranging from ≥ 2 to 35 (salinity is reported on the unitless practical salinity scale; UNESCO,
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20 1985), it is unable to survive in fresh water (Paul & Calliari, 2017). Despite their intolerance of
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22 freshwater conditions, individuals are often present at high densities in oligo- to mesohaline
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24 salinities (Hulburt 1957; Schiariti *et al.*, 2006; Bouchard & Winkler, 2018), suggesting these
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26 animals are physiologically adapted to rapid changes in ambient salinity near the boundary of
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28 their salinity threshold. Given that *N. americana* can be found near their temperature and salinity
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30 tolerance thresholds in temperate estuaries during the summer, measuring indicators of standard
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32 metabolism, such as metabolic rates (MR) by resting, unfed animals under different
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34 environmental conditions provides a means to evaluate the potential effects of environmental
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36 conditions on individuals that may influence their populations (Maltby *et al.*, 2001). Such
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38 analyses can also provide evidence of ecological tradeoffs in which animals select metabolically
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40 sub-optimal habitats in exchange for alternative ecological benefits (e.g., better feeding
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42 opportunities; Rahel & Nutzman, 1994).
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53 The objective of this study was to determine the MR by measuring oxygen consumption
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55 (e.g. Elliott & Davison, 1975) of *N. americana* at three realistic summer temperatures and
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57 salinity conditions, and to compare daytime *versus* nighttime MR of individuals. Our research
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4 represents the first published information on MR of *N. americana* under a range of estuarine
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6 temperature and salinity conditions, helping us understand how spatial and temporal changes in
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8 local conditions might influence the metabolism of the species. Based on previous research
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10 (Roast *et al.*, 1999) on a congener (*Neomysis integer* (Leach, 1814)) we hypothesized that MR
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12 would rise as temperature increased and as salinity decreased. Because mysids are highly active
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14 in natural settings at night, we hypothesized that MR would be higher in the water column during
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16 the night as a result of influences of activity. Understanding the metabolic response of *N.*
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METHODS

Sampling

Neomysis americana were collected at night (2100–0300 EDT) from the upper Patuxent River near Benedict, MD, USA (38.5106° N, 76.6798° W). Approximately 150–200 mysids were collected with a 0.5 m diameter plankton net with 180 µm mesh deployed for approximately 3–5 min just below the surface. Mean temperature and salinity measured with a Manta2 multiprobe (Eureka Water Probes, Austin, TX, USA) in the field at the time of capture were 23 °C and 7, respectively. Mysids were kept in large, aerated containers under ambient conditions in the field and then transferred to 5 l aquaria at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, Solomons, MD, USA.

Experimental setup

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4 Approximately 15–20 mysids were placed in each of nine aerated aquaria, and held in each
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6 aquarium for 21 d. Groups of three aquaria were randomly assigned to one of nine combinations
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8 of temperature (22, 26, 29 °C) and salinity (2, 8, 16). Temperatures and salinity levels were
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10 selected to mimic typical summer water conditions observed in the Patuxent River (Fig. 1).
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12 Aquaria assigned to the 26 and 29 °C temperature treatments were maintained in constant-
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14 temperature incubators (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA), whereas the 22 °C
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16 treatments were held in an isolated experimental area under ambient laboratory temperatures.
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18 Mysids were acclimated more than 8 d to experimental conditions by adjusting water
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20 temperatures by 1 °C day⁻¹ and salinities by 2 day⁻¹ until the desired temperature and salinity
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22 had been achieved. A day:night light cycle of 16:8 hr was maintained using full spectrum growth
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24 lights in order to mimic natural light regimes. In the aquaria, groups of mysids were fed < 24 hr
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26 old *Artemia* naupilii at concentrations yielding approximately 75–80 naupilii mysid⁻¹ in the
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28 morning and at night for a total feeding rate of 150 naupilii mysid⁻¹ day⁻¹. *Artemia* naupilii were
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30 cultured in the laboratory at 22 °C and salinities of 15–16 under constant aeration.
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38 After acclimation, MR assays were conducted on mysids from each treatment. Prior to
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40 each assay, mysids were fasted for a period of 24 hr to minimize influences of feeding and
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42 digestion on MR (see McCue, 2006). Individual mysids were then transferred to 20 ml vials
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44 completely filled with 0.2 µm filtered water that was taken from buckets with acclimated water
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46 placed in each treatment, and changes in dissolved oxygen (DO) concentration were measured at
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48 15 sec intervals over a 5 hr period using a FirestingO2 optical oxygen sensor (Pyroscience,
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50 Aachen, Germany). Assays were conducted twice for each individual mysid, in the morning
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52 starting at 0800 hr and at night starting at 2100 hr. Assays were conducted on the same day, the
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54 morning assay was always conducted first for consistency; at the end of the first assay mysids
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4 were individually placed in mason jars. Mysids remained active upon placing them in vials, but
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6 seemed to settle down shortly after. Each of three Firesting units provided four data channels,
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8 allowing up to three mysids per unit and one reference blank serving as a control to be measured
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10 simultaneously. The blank showed constant O₂ throughout experiments. Temperature was
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12 monitored using a temperature sensor included in the blank respiratory vial, which also provided
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14 temperature compensation for the calculated O₂ consumption rate. Temperature variation was
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16 negligible within a trial (e.g., for a 29 °C assay, temperatures ranged from 28.4 to 29.6). Assays
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18 were all conducted within a week and all treatments were run at the same time for every assay.
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24 At the end of the experiment, individual mysids were blotted and weighed to obtain wet
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26 weight (mg), then dried at 60 °C for ≥ 2 d and reweighed to obtain dry weight. A total of 128
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28 individuals were used in these experiments. The sex of each mysid was determined based on
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30 primary sexual characteristics, males identified by an elongation of the fourth pleopod, females
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32 by the presence of an empty marsupium (brood sac), and gravid females were identified by the
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34 presence of embryos in the marsupium (Mauchline, 1980; Bouchard & Winkler, 2018).
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38 Subadults were not distinguished from sexually mature adults, with the exception of gravid
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40 females.
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42 43 *Statistical analyses*

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45 Data collected within the first two hours of the metabolic assays were excluded due to
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47 nonlinearities in MR as mysids acclimated to the experimental chambers. Metabolic rate was
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49 calculated as the slope of the dissolved oxygen concentration ($\mu\text{gO}_2 \text{ ml}^{-1}$) regressed against time
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51 (min) and corrected for the volume of the sample vial (0.024 l), yielding a final respiration index
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53 (MR) = $\mu\text{gO}_2 \text{ min}^{-1}$. Initial testing of ln-transformed MR as a function of sex and body size (ln-
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55 transformed dry weight) indicated gravid females had higher MR at a given body size compared
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4 to non-gravid females and males (ANCOVA, $F_{2,132} = 3.90$, $P = 0.02$; least-squares means
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6 estimates of ln-transformed MR: gravid females = 0.12 ± 0.01 [SE], non-gravid females = $0.09 \pm$
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8 0.01 , males = 0.09 ± 0.01) and were skewing results. After excluding gravid females from the
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10 analysis there was no statistical significance in respiration rates between sex groups; therefore,
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12 gravid females ($N = 17$) were excluded from all further statistical analysis. Additionally, gravid
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14 females were removed from the statistical analyses due to their small sample size.
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19 A mixed-effects general linear model (GLM) was used to test for main effects of
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21 temperature, salinity, and diel group. Individual mysids were treated as a random effect to
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23 account for autocorrelation of repeated measures from the same individual and ln-transformed
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25 dry weight was included as a continuous covariate. Homogeneity of variance among treatment
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27 groups was verified and MR were ln-transformed to satisfy the parametric assumption of
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29 normally distributed residuals for the mixed-effects GLM. The interaction between salinity and
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31 temperature was excluded from the mixed-effects GLM given that it was not significant ($P >$
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33 0.05).
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38 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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40 Mean body weight of experimental *N. americana* ranged from 0.017 to 4.952 mg wet weight and
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42 from 0.010 to 1.176 mg dry weight. These weights correspond to estimated body lengths of 1.8
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44 to 9.8 mm based on a rostrum-telson body length (L in mm) to dry weight (W in mg) conversion
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46 derived from the same population of *N. americana* as part of an unrelated study ($L = 9.24 \times W$
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48 $^{0.366}$, $N = 133$, $R^2 = 0.97$; RW, unpublished data). There were slightly more males than females in
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50 the experiment (69 males, 59 females) but both sexes were represented in each of the
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52 experimental treatments. MR ranged from 0.002 to $0.244 \mu\text{O}_2 \text{ min}^{-1}$. Analysis showed a linear
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54 effect of ln-transformed body size (dry weight) on MR (linear regression: $N = 128$, $F = 147.28$, P
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4 < 0.0001, $R^2 = 0.51$). There was no interaction between MR at ln-transformed body size and
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6 either temperature (ANCOVA, interaction: temperature \times ln-transformed body size, $F = 0.306$, P
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8 = 0.581) or salinity (ANCOVA, interaction: salinity \times ln-transformed body size, $F = 0.431$, $P =$
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10 0.512).
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14 Mass-specific respiration rates ranged from 0.004 to 0.082 $\mu\text{gO}_2 \text{ min}^{-1} \text{ mg}^{-1}$ dry wt.
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16 Respiration values were similar to the values obtained in Smith & Hargraeves (1984). Modlin &
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18 Froelich (1997) found that MR increased with body size, which agree with our observations. Our
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20 finding that mass-specific MR did not differ between non-gravid females and males is contrary
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22 to what was found by Weisse & Rudstam (1989) and Roast *et al.* (1999) for *N. integer* and by
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24 Smith & Hargreaves (1984) for *N. americana*. Our initial observation that MR in gravid females
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26 were higher than in non-gravid females and males could reflect a bioenergetic cost of parental
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28 care or respiration by the developing brood (Fig. 2). Gravid females were larger and could
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30 potentially consume more oxygen per unit mass due to increased metabolic demands associated
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32 with swimming in the presence of a full marsupium, active oxygenation of the marsupium by the
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34 female, or through the direct uptake of oxygen by the progeny in the marsupium. Increased
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36 metabolic demands in egg-bearing females has been observed in other crustaceans such as
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38 intertidal crabs *Heterozius rotundifrons* A. Milne-Edwards, 1867 and *Cyclograpsus lavauxi* (H.
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40 Milne Edwards, 1853) (Taylor & Leelapiyanart, 2001).
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48 Across temperature and salinity treatments, the lowest MR were observed in the highest
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50 temperature treatment at salinities of 2 and 8 during the day ($0.028 \mu\text{gO}_2 \text{ min}^{-1}$) and at night
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52 ($0.026 \mu\text{gO}_2 \text{ min}^{-1}$). At 16 salinity, MR increased in the high temperature treatment to an average
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54 of $0.069 \mu\text{gO}_2 \text{ min}^{-1}$ during the day. With the exception of the 2-salinity treatment at 26 °C, the
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56 16 salinity treatment at 22 °C and 8 salinity treatment at 29 °C, mass-specific MR were not
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4 elevated during the night as hypothesized, but the daytime rates were more variable among
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6 treatments than nighttime rates. We did not observe a cyclic diel pattern; however, Smith &
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8 Hargreaves (1984) did observe a cyclic diel pattern in MR, such that the highest respiration rates
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10 were found late afternoon/early evening.
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14 In their natural environment, *N. americana* form dense aggregations that actively swim
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16 during the day, albeit in deep or near-bottom waters, thus our experimental observation that MR
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18 did not differ between diel periods may reflect realistic conditions in the estuarine environment
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20 during the day even if findings were not as expected. The only previous study to have examined
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22 (and identified) diel differences in MR of *N. americana* was conducted over a finer temporal
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24 scale (Smith & Hargreaves, 1984) and it is possible that our study design failed to capture the
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26 specific timing of diel respiration cycles.
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31 In the mixed-effects GLM, we hypothesized that MR would increase at higher
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33 temperatures, similar to the relationships previously identified for *N. americana* (Raymont &
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35 Conover, 1961) and *N. integer* (Roast *et al.*, 1999). MR were significantly affected by
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37 temperature ($F_{2,52} = 3.21$, $P = 0.048$) and increased with body size ($F_{1,52} = 9.85$, $P = 0.003$; Table
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39 1; Fig. 3); however, MR were highest at 22 °C ($0.104 \pm 0.006 \mu\text{gO}_2 \text{ min}^{-1}$; Fig. 2) and lowest at
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41 29 °C ($0.081 \pm 0.006 \mu\text{gO}_2 \text{ min}^{-1}$), contrary to expectations (e.g. Raymont & Conover 1961;
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43 Roast *et al.*, 1999). There was an average decrease in MR from the 22 °C treatment to the 29 °C
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45 treatment of $0.023 \pm 0.009 \mu\text{gO}_2 \text{ min}^{-1}$, a 22% decline from the 22 °C treatment. A previous
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47 study by Raymont & Conover (1961) showed a positive effect of temperature on *N. americana*
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49 MR but the temperatures used in that study (4 °C and 10 °C) were substantially lower than even
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51 the lowest temperature treatment used in our study. In light of Raymont & Conover's (1961)
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53 observations of increased MR at 10 °C relative to 4 °C, it was unexpected that, within a higher
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4 temperature range (22–29°C), we would observe thermal independence. Very high variability in
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6 MR results at 29 °C could suggest metabolic disruption and/or perhaps anaerobic metabolic
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8 subsidies. Mihursky & Kennedy (1972) reported elevated mortality at 30 °C, but in our study the
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10 29 °C treatment did not cause mortality of any mysids.
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14 As expected, MR increased with body size (Fig. 3). Despite the exclusion of gravid
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16 females, there was some evidence of positively skewed residuals among the very largest mysids
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18 included in the model. We did not observe differences in MR across salinities ($F_{2,52} = 1.86$, $P =$
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20 0.165) or between diel periods in the mixed-effects linear model ($F_{1,52} = 0.22$, $P = 0.64$). The
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22 absence of a consistent salinity effect is consistent with results from some studies of other mysid
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24 species that found no effect or variable effects of salinity on metabolism within salinity tolerance
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26 ranges (e.g., Modlin & Froelich 1997; Marshall *et al.* 2003). Modlin & Froelich (1997) observed
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28 no effects of salinity (18, 22, 26) on MR of *Americamysis bahia* (Molenock, 1969), another
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30 mysid common to estuaries and coastal waters of the western Atlantic Ocean. Conversely, the
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32 metabolism of the congener *N. integer* was found to increase with decreasing salinity at three
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34 different temperatures (Roast *et al.* 1999). While not directly comparable, it is also noteworthy to
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36 note that our experimental findings suggest *N. americana* populations in Chesapeake Bay are
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38 more tolerant of higher temperatures at low salinities than an invasive population in the Laguna
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40 de Rocha estuary, Uruguay (Paul & Calliari, 2017). Survival of sub-adult *N. americana* was poor
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42 in salinities < 10 at 72 hr but increased at mesohaline salinities of 15 (Paul & Calliari, 2017). The
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44 same study found that survival among sub-adult *N. americana* was lowest at combinations of
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46 low or high salinity and low or high temperature, survival rates were highest at intermediate
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48 salinities (15) and temperatures (20 °C). Sub-adult *N. americana* are routinely sampled in
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50 salinities < 5 and at water temperatures exceeding 25 °C in Chesapeake Bay (Fig. 1). Our
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4 findings provide insight into the physiological mechanisms and metabolic plasticity that could
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6 explain the persistence of *N. americana* in estuarine habitats near their thermal and osmotic
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8 tolerance thresholds. Our results also lay the groundwork for future studies on the metabolic
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10 costs associated with local water quality and how (or if) spatial patterns in the distribution of *N.*
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12 *americana* in Chesapeake Bay or elsewhere in its range correlate with energetically optimal
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14 conditions during the summer.
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36
37 international, national, and institutional guidelines for sampling, care and experimental use of
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41 **Figure captions**

42
43 **Figure 1.** Average monthly temperature (top) and salinity (middle) conditions from 2011–2015
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45 in the Patuxent River, Maryland, USA at five long-term monitoring stations spanning the full
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47 oligo- to mesohaline reach of the saline portion of the estuary (Chesapeake Bay Program Water
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49 Quality Monitoring Program stations: 1, LE1.1; 2, TF1.7; 3, TF1.6; 4, TF1.5) where *Neomysis*
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51 *americana* has been consistently observed (bottom; *N. americana* average monthly
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53 concentrations from co-located Chesapeake Bay Program Zooplankton Monitoring Program
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55 stations, 1984–2002).
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4 **Figure 2.** Least-squares means estimates (+ 1 SE) for *Neomysis americana* ln-transformed
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6 metabolic rates (MR, $\mu\text{gO}_2 \text{ min}^{-1}$) from two separate analyses: a comparison of gravid female
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8 (GF), non-gravid female (NGF), and male (M) MR using ANCOVA (solid bars, left), and a
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10 comparison of MR at three experimental temperatures using a mixed-effects general linear model
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12 (open bars, right). Shared letters next to bars in each group indicate no significant difference at α
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14 = 0.05.
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19 **Figure 3.** Partial residual plot of ln-transformed metabolic rates ($\mu\text{gO}_2 \text{ min}^{-1}$) of *Neomysis*
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21 *americana* in relation to ln-transformed dry weight (mg).
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Table 1. Fixed effects from mixed-effects general linear model testing for weight, diel group, temperature, and salinity effects on ln-transformed metabolic rate of *Neomysis americana* from Chesapeake Bay, MD, USA. A non-significant interaction term (Temperature x Salinity [$P > 0.05$]) was not included in the final model. Model terms significant at $P \leq 0.05$ are italicized.

Body size = ln-transformed dry wt (mg). ~~Num. = numerator, Den. = denominator.~~

Effect	Degrees of freedom		F-statistic	<i>P</i>
	Num numera tor	Den denomina tor		
<i>Body size</i>	1	52	9.85	0.003
Diel period	1	52	0.22	0.643
<i>Temperature</i>	2	52	3.21	0.048
Salinity	2	52	1.86	0.165

Commented [A1]: You could easily spell out in the table without having to explain.

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