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Published in:
Physiology & Behavior

Link to article, DOI:
[10.1016/j.physbeh.2019.112777](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physbeh.2019.112777)

Publication date:
2020

Document Version
Peer reviewed version

[Link back to DTU Orbit](#)

Citation (APA):
Behrens, J., von Friesen, L. W., Brodin, T., Hirsch, P. E., Persson, A., Sundelin, A., van Deurs, M., & Nilsson, P. A. (2020). Personality- and size-related metabolic performance in invasive round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*). *Physiology & Behavior*, 215, Article 112777. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physbeh.2019.112777>

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1 **Personality- and size-related metabolic performance in invasive round goby (*Neogobius***
2 ***melanostomus*)**

3

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20 Declarations of interest: None

21 Role of financial sources in the process: None

22 Data behind this research article is available upon request.

23 **Abstract**

24 Differences between individuals in behavioral type (i.e. animal personality) are ecologically and
25 evolutionarily important because they can have significant effects on fitness components such as
26 growth and predation risk. In the present study we ere used the invasive round goby (*Neogobius*
27 *melanostomus*) from an established population in controlled experiments to examine the relationships
28 among personality, metabolic performance, and growth rate (inferred as size-at-age). Boldness was
29 measured as the time to return to normal behavior after a simulated predator attack, where fish with
30 shorter freezing times were categorized as “bold” and fish with longer times were categorized as
31 “shy”. We show that bold fish have significantly higher standard metabolic rate (SMR) than their shy
32 conspecifics, whereas there was no difference between personality types in their maximum metabolic
33 rate (MMR) or aerobic scope (AS). Bold fish furthermore had a smaller size-at-age as compared to
34 shy fish. Together this provides evidence of a metabolic underpinning of personality where the high-
35 SMR bold fish require more resources to sustain basic life functions than their low-SMR shy
36 conspecifics, indicating that bold round goby from established populations with high densities (and
37 high competition for food) pay a price of reduced growth rate.

38

39 **Keywords:** Behavioral syndrome; Pace-of-life syndrome; Individuality; Metabolism; Respirometry;
40 Boldness

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44 **1 Introduction**

45 The concept of animal personality (here defined as individual variation in behavioral traits, e.g.
46 boldness, that remain constant across time and contexts) has received increasing amounts of attention
47 over the past 15 years (Briffa and Weiss, 2010; Gosling, 2001; Réale et al., 2007). Differences
48 between individuals in behavioral type are ecologically and evolutionarily relevant because they can
49 have important effects on fitness or components of fitness (Sih et al., 2012; Smith and Blumstein,
50 2008; Wolf and Weissing, 2012). In particular, bolder, more active or aggressive animals often feed
51 and grow at higher rates (Brown et al., 2007; Ward et al., 2004; Westerberg et al., 2004) but also take
52 more risks and thus suffer higher mortality from predators (Biro and Stamps, 2008; Brodin and
53 Johansson, 2004; Sih et al., 2003). In addition, a recent field study confirms that bold phenotypes do
54 run a greater risk of predation also in the wild (Hulthén et al., 2017). Despite the attention animal
55 personality received in connection to fitness correlates such as growth and predation risk, comparably
56 little attention has been paid to the metabolic underpinnings of personality. Recent evidence
57 demonstrates that being bold and having a higher tendency to disperse also comes at a metabolic cost:
58 bolder individuals might have increased metabolic maintenance costs required for a higher
59 performance in exploratory movements (Myles-Gonzalez et al., 2015). This suggests that the cost-
60 benefit trade-off may not only be of a ‘predation susceptibility character’ but also of a metabolic
61 character. Although interest in this issue has increased, it still remains unclear whether standard
62 metabolic rate (SMR) is a stable trait of a given individual (mass-specific SMR does not change
63 throughout ontogeny) or whether e.g. an individual varies in SMR with size or is contingent on how
64 fast or slow it grows. Metabolic performance in relation to individual personality is hardly ever put in
65 context of the growth rate of the tested individuals, although the relationship between metabolism and
66 growth rate is undisputed (see Rosenfeld et al., 2015 for a review on salmonids). Regardless of the
67 directions of any such relationships between growth rate and SMR this relationship would potentially,
68 at least in part, counteract the increased growth potential arising from a boldness-driven higher food
69 access.

70 Here, we use round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*) as a timely model organism to examine the
71 relationships among personality, metabolic performance and growth rate as interfered from size-at-
72 age correlations. The round goby is a very suitable species to test for metabolic costs of boldness
73 because it is an experimentally well-understood model species for both personality (Myles-Gonzalez
74 et al., 2015; Thorlacius et al., 2015; Thorlacius and Brodin, 2017) and metabolic measures (Behrens et
75 al., 2017; Drouillard et al., 2018; Tierney et al., 2011) as well as the combination of both (Myles-
76 Gonzalez et al., 2015). It originates from the Ponto-Caspian region but has been introduced via ship
77 ballast water to large parts of Europe, including the Baltic Sea, and the Great Lakes in North America.
78 It has dispersed widely in both regions and is considered one of the most impactful invasive species
79 (Ojaveer et al., 2015; Ojaveer and Kotta, 2014). Currently, it is continuing its invasion of the Baltic
80 Sea towards the saline North Sea (Azour et al., 2015; Behrens et al., 2017). Recent studies have
81 documented personality-dependent dispersal in this species (Thorlacius et al., 2015; Thorlacius and
82 Brodin, 2017), and it has been argued that ‘bigger is better’ for fish leading the invasion front, i.e.
83 individuals found at the border of a range expansion have a larger body size than individuals at the
84 center (Brandner et al., 2013). Using fish from an established population in the western Baltic, we
85 here i) performed personality assays on round goby, ii) tested whether individuals of different
86 behavioral types differ in their overall aerobic metabolic performance, and iii) compared the size
87 distribution (length and weight) of the bold versus shy round gobies.

88

89 **2 Material and Methods**

90 *2.1 Fish and holding facilities*

91 Round goby (approximately 400 fish) were caught April 2017 with fyke nets in the brackish water
92 estuary Guldborgsund (salinity 10 PSU (Olsen, 2002)) in the western Baltic Sea (54°42'N, 11°51'E).
93 The gender of individual fish was determined on location by examination of the urogenital papilla
94 (Marsden et al., 1996) and only males (approx. 200 in total) were collected to exclude any potential
95 gender-mediated differences. The fish were transported to DTU Aqua, Lyngby, Denmark, and held in

96 five 1500 l tanks with 10 ± 1 °C, recirculated and aerated 10 ± 0.5 PSU water. All tanks were enriched
97 with fine-grain gravel on the bottom as well as artificial seagrass and PVC tubes (diameter 7.5 cm) to
98 provide shelter. The light:dark cycle followed the natural cycle, changing from 16:8 to 14:10 during
99 the course of the study. Following one week of acclimation to the holding conditions, individual fish
100 were tagged with passive integrated transponder tags (PIT tags; 12×2 mm; 0.1 g; Oregon RFID) into
101 the body cavity using disposable 12.2-gauge syringe implanters, and fish weights and lengths were
102 noted. Fish were observed twice daily after tagging and fed to satiation with defrosted shrimp every
103 third day (the feeding schedule was however adjusted according to experimental protocols, see details
104 below). Ethical permit 2017-15-0201-01282 from the Danish Animal Ethics Committee covered all
105 experiments reported here.

106 *2.2 Boldness assays*

107 Boldness assays were started 10 days after tagging. The fish were kept on a feeding schedule such that
108 they were fed two days before starting the trial. Approximately 25 fish went through the boldness trial
109 per day, and a total of 182 fish participated in assays. A non-transparent wall (brown cardboard paper)
110 was placed in front of each experimental aquarium to reduce disturbance from the surroundings. The
111 aquaria were rotated 180° each day to eliminate orientation effects, and the water was exchanged
112 twice daily (midday and at the end of each experimental day) with water from the holding tanks, and
113 faeces were removed between each individual. Each individual fish was placed in the middle of an
114 experimental aquarium ($30 \times 35 \times 60$ cm, water depth 15cm) and left to acclimate for five minutes.
115 Thereafter, a bolt attached to a fishing line was released into the middle of the aquarium, penetrating
116 the water surface with a depth of 5cm and a distance of 0-2 body lengths from the fish to simulate a
117 bird attack. The bolt was retracted after one second, and the whole procedure was recorded on video
118 from above for 30 minutes (SONY, Handycam, HDR-CX405). Directly after each trial, the fish were
119 moved back to the holding tanks. Boldness was defined and analyzed according to Thorlacius et al.
120 (2015). In short, boldness was measured as an individual's ability to return to normal behavior after a
121 stressful situation, such as a predator encounter. More specifically, this was done by exposing the fish
122 to the simulated predator attack and then measuring time from predator attack to first movement after

123 freezing (i.e. freezing time). Shorter time indicates higher level of boldness, i.e. higher ability to
124 return to normal behavior after a predator attack. Freezing time were used to indicate levels of
125 boldness for individual round goby, as it has been commonly used to measure boldness and has been
126 proven repeatable in this species (Thorlacius et al., 2015). The recordings were analyzed with the
127 software ToxTrac ver. 2.80 (Rodriguez et al., 2018). To determine the consistency of boldness, the
128 boldness trial was repeated for 62 fish (26 bold, 26 shy and 10 intermediate).

129 *2.3 Metabolism*

130 To determine fish aerobic metabolic performance, the individuals' standard metabolic rates (SMR; the
131 oxygen uptake of a resting, fasting fish) and maximum metabolic rate (MMR; the maximum oxygen
132 uptake following exhaustive exercise) were measured. SMR represents the energetic cost of self
133 maintenance (Chabot et al., 2016), where individuals with high SMR require more resources to
134 sustain basic life functions than individuals with low SMR (Auer et al., 2018). MMR on the other
135 hand, sets the ceiling for fish capacity to metabolize oxygen, and has been shown to vary across
136 animal lifestyles (Behrens et al., 2006; Norin and Clark, 2016). The difference between SMR and
137 MMR, the aerobic scope (AS), is the metabolic range within which all aerobic activities must take
138 place; the AS is thus considered to be linked to the performance and fitness of the individual (Behrens
139 et al., 2018; Fry, 1947; Norin and Clark, 2016).

140 Nineteen fish (9 bold of mean weight 41 ± 7 g (SD) and 10 shy of mean weight 44 ± 6 g (SD)) were
141 used in respirometry trials. Originally 10 fish of each personality type were chosen, but one trial with
142 a bold fish had computer failure and no data was collected. The fish were chosen randomly amongst
143 the total 26 bold and 26 shy fish, respectively, however still (by visual inspection) aiming to size-
144 match the two groups, to minimize the risk of a size effect on metabolic rate. Individuals were fasted
145 for three to five days before being placed in the respirometer. Two respirometers with volumes of
146 1126 and 1157 ml were held in a 600 l tank, with 10 ± 1 °C, recirculated and aerated 10 ± 0.5 PSU
147 water. To minimize visual disturbance, the respirometers were shielded off from each other and from
148 above with opaque polyethylene plates. Oxygen consumption rate ($\dot{M}O_2$) was measured with an
149 intermittent-flow respirometry set-up (Behrens et al., 2017). The partial pressure of oxygen (pO_2) was

150 measured every second with fiber-optic sensors, connected to a Witrox 4 oxymeter (Loligo Systems,
151 Tjele, Denmark). Using the software AutoResp™ (Loligo Systems, Tjele, Denmark) $\frac{dpO_2}{dt}$ (kPaO₂ h⁻¹)
152 was determined by linear regression and $\dot{M}O_2$ (mg O₂ kg⁻¹ h⁻¹) calculated according to the equation:

$$153 \quad \dot{M}O_2 = \frac{\alpha \cdot V_{resp} \cdot \beta}{BM} \quad (1)$$

154 where α is the $\frac{dpO_2}{dt}$, V_{resp} is the total volume of the respirometer minus the volume of the fish (L), β is
155 oxygen solubility at the given temperature and salinity and BM is the body mass of the fish (kg). The
156 animal volume was calculated from its mass, assuming neutral density in water.

157 All respirometry trials began between 1 and 2pm. To yield maximum metabolic rate (MMR),
158 individual fish underwent an exhaustive chase and air exposure protocol (3 min 30sec in total) (Norin
159 and Clark, 2016). More specifically, individual fish were placed in a circular tank (60 cm diameter,
160 water depth 15 cm) with aerated water of the same temperature and salinity as the respirometer. Each
161 fish was chased continuously by hand for 1 min and then netted and exposed to air for 10seconds (s).
162 This procedure was repeated three times, after which the fish was placed in the respirometer. The first
163 $\dot{M}O_2$ measurement was taken with a wait period of 60 s and a measuring period of 150s (Behrens et
164 al., 2017). For all fish, this $\dot{M}O_2$ value after the chase protocol was always the highest reported during
165 the trial and thus taken as MMR. After measurement of MMR, fish remained in the respirometers
166 overnight to allow for $\dot{M}O_2$ measurement of the individual at a resting, non-digesting state (standard
167 metabolic rate; SMR (Chabot et al., 2016). For SMR 10min loops were used, with a flush period of
168 240 s, a wait period of 60 s, and a measuring period of 300 s. A single experimental trial lasted
169 approximately 24 h and SMR was estimated as the average of the 10% lowest $\dot{M}O_2$ measurements
170 during this period. Background (bacterial) $\dot{M}O_2$ was subsequently determined in the chamber without
171 fish and the value subtracted. On average, background $\dot{M}O_2$ levels were 2% of SMR. Every day,
172 subsequent to a trial, the respirometers, including tubing, were disassembled and cleaned in warm fresh
173 water and soap.

174 *2.4 Statistical analysis*

175 *2.4.1 Personality*

176 Spearman's rank correlation was used to estimate the consistency of individual boldness scores
177 between the two personality assay periods, and the repeatability of boldness score measurements were
178 estimated using intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC). Statistical tests were carried out using SPSS
179 Statistics (version 24).

180 *2.4.2 Metabolism*

181 The three dependent variables SMR, MMR and AS were compared between goby personalities (bold
182 vs shy) in a MANCOVA with goby individual wet weights as covariate ($y \sim \text{personality} + \text{wet weight}$
183 $+ \text{personality} \times \text{wet weight}$). Statistical tests were carried out using SPSS Statistics (version 25).

184 *2.4.3 Weight and length analysis*

185 In order to test if personality was related to size, mean weight, and length, the whole 'lab population'
186 of shy and bold fish were compared using a t-test. Differences in the mean weight of shy and bold fish
187 could be due to either growth effects or age effects. We therefore used the length-age relationship
188 from Azour et al. (2015) to inform us about the possible ages of fish within specified length intervals
189 (fish from Azour et al. (2015) were caught in the same place as fish used in the present study).

190 According to Azour et al. (2015) fish between 12 and 14.5 cm are highly likely to be 2 years old (i.e.
191 there was no overlap with younger and older fish within this length interval). Hence, the t-test
192 comparison of mean weight for shy and bold fish was repeated, but this time only using fish from
193 within this length interval. If a significant difference in weight between bold and shy fish persisted
194 within this length interval as well, any size effect on personality would likely be the result of an
195 underlying relationship between growth rate and personality (opposed to a relationship between age
196 and personality). If not, the weight difference would more likely be the result of an age-effect.
197 Statistical tests were carried out using R with Rstudio (version 3.6.0).

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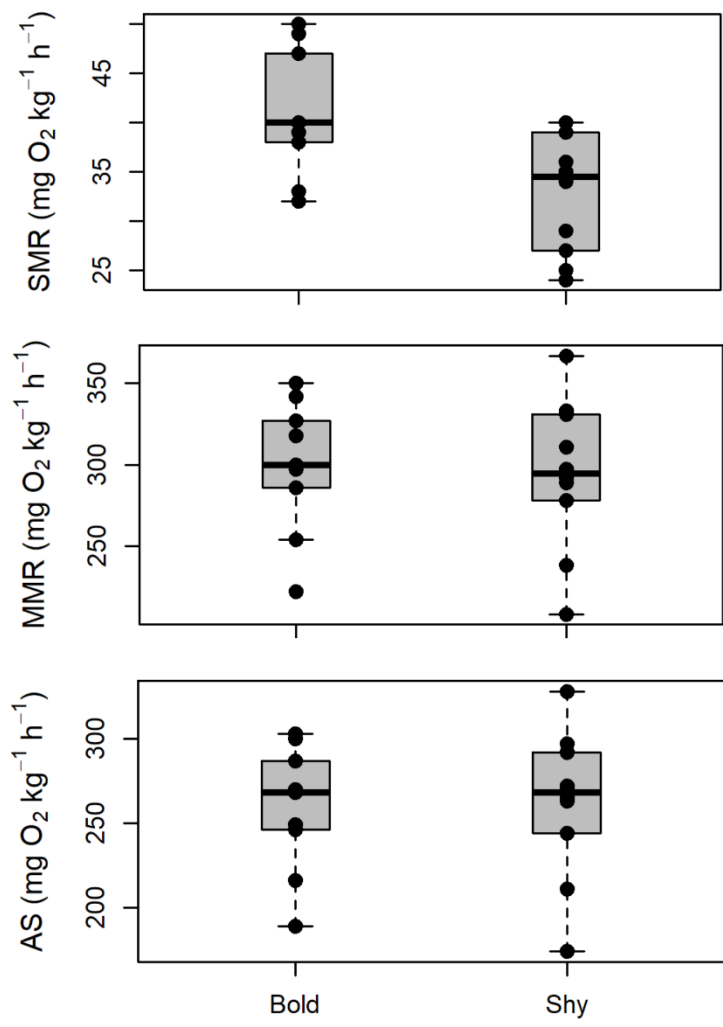
200 **3 Results**

201 *3.1 Personality*

202 Boldness of round goby was both consistent and repeatable over the one-month period between the
203 trials (consistency: Spearman's $\rho=0.48$, $p < 0.001$; repeatability: $F_{61, 62} = 2.68$, $p < 0.001$, ICC =
204 0.457, 95% CI = 0.269 - 0.655).

205 *3.2 Metabolism*

206 The full, initial MANCOVA model was reduced by removing the non-significant personality \times wet
207 weight interaction term (Wilks' $\lambda=0.932$, $F_{2,14}=0.509$, $p=0.612$). The resulting, reduced model was
208 further reduced by removing the non-significant covariate wet weight (Wilks' $\lambda=0.990$, $F_{2,15}=0.075$,
209 $p=0.928$). The resulting MANOVA model indicated a significant effect of personality (Wilks' λ
210 $=0.650$, $F_{2,16}=4.302$, $p=0.032$, partial $\eta^2=0.350$). A univariate between-subject effects test showed that
211 this effect was due to an effect of personality on SMR ($F_{1,17}=7.476$, $p=0.014$, partial $\eta^2=0.305$), but
212 neither on MMR ($F_{1,17}=0.065$, $p=0.801$, partial $\eta^2=0.004$) nor AS ($F_{1,17}=0.020$, $p=0.890$, partial
213 $\eta^2=0.001$). Variances did not differ between groups (Levene statistic ≤ 0.041 , $p \geq 0.842$) and residuals
214 did not deviate from normality (Shapiro-Wilk ≥ 0.922 , $p \geq 0.124$). The mean (\pm SD) SMR, MMR and
215 AS of the bold and shy fish were 41 ± 2 and 27 ± 2 mg O₂ kg⁻¹ h⁻¹, 300 ± 13 and 238 ± 14 mg O₂ kg⁻¹
216 h⁻¹, and 259 ± 12 and 211 ± 13 mg O₂ kg⁻¹ h⁻¹, respectively (Figure 1).



219 Figure 1. Standard metabolic rate (SMR), maximum metabolic rate (MMR) and aerobic scope (AS;
220 MMR – SMR) for bold (n=9) and shy (n=10) round goby. Bars represent first, second (i.e. median),
221 and third quartiles, while whiskers represent 95% confidence intervals. Individual data points are
222 indicated with circles.

223

224 3.3 Weight and length distributions of the whole ‘lab population’ of bold and shy round goby

225 Bold fish weighed significantly less than shy fish ($40.6 \pm 14.8\text{g}$ and $48.9 \pm 13.8\text{g}$, respectively)
226 ($t_{60.1}=2.55$, $p = 0.014$) and were significantly shorter (13.9 ± 1.5 cm and 14.8 ± 1.1 cm, respectively)
227 ($t_{57.8}=2.67$, $p = 0.010$). Out of the original 65 fish (33 bold fish and 32 shy fish), 31 fish (19 bold and
228 12 shy fish) belonged to the length interval from 12 to 14.5 cm (i.e. being 2 years of age). The size
229 difference between bold and shy fish within this selected group of 2 year old fish (weight: $30.9 \pm 6.\text{g}$
230 and $37.9 \pm 4.6\text{g}$ respectively, length: 12.9 ± 0.8 cm and 13.7 ± 0.4 cm, respectively) was also
231 significant (weight comparison: $t_{28.3}=3.58$, $p=0.001$; length comparison: $t_{28.2}=3.73$, $p<0.001$), inferring
232 a relationship between growth rate and personality, rather than between age and personality (Figure
233 2).

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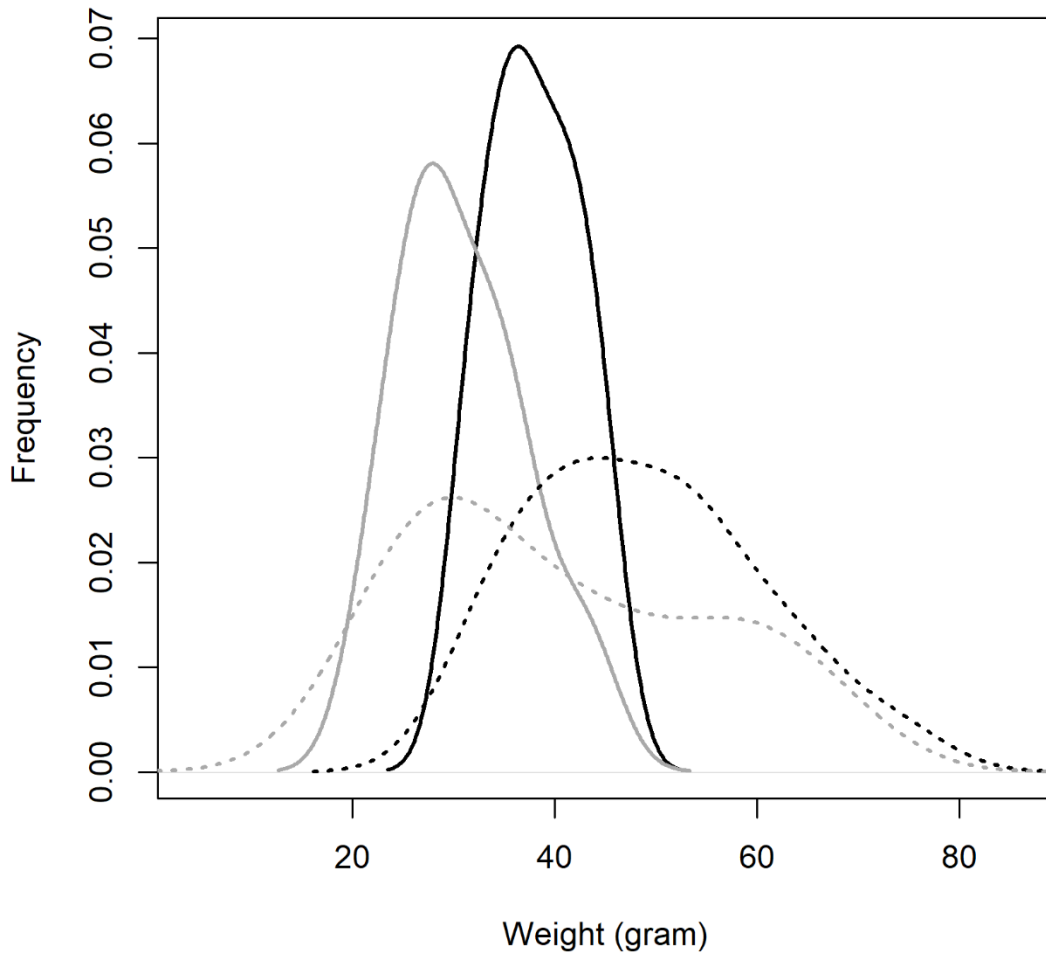
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243 Single column fitting image – Figure 2:

244



245

246 Figure 2. Weight frequency distributions of bold (grey) and shy (black) round goby, respectively.

247 Dashed lines represent all fish and solid lines represents only the fish from the size interval that

248 according to Azour et al. (2015) is comprised exclusively of 2-year-old fish.

249

250

251

252 **4 Discussion**

253 In this study, we tested whether metabolism (SMR, MMR and AS) is related to boldness and found
254 that bolder individuals have higher SMR. When comparing the metabolic performance to the size of
255 the fish, we found that bolder fish were significantly smaller than their shy conspecifics of the same
256 age. Taken together, this suggests a metabolic underpinning of personality, and that bold round goby
257 pay the price of a reduced growth rate.

258 *4.1 Differences in metabolic rate between personality types – hints towards a behavior–physiology* 259 *syndrome?*

260 Our results reveal pronounced inter-individual variation in metabolic parameters (SMR, MMR and
261 AS). On average all parameters were elevated in bold individuals relative to shy individuals, yet only
262 SMR turned out to be significantly different. In general, the observation that bolder fish have a higher
263 SMR matches well with previous work. For example, Auer et al. (2018) showed that replicated
264 populations of the Trinidadian guppy (*Poecilia reticulata*) that evolved a fast-paced life history also
265 had consistently higher SMR than guppies that evolved a slow-paced life history. The same pattern of
266 higher SMR in bold fish was found in a recent experimental study on the olive flounder, *Paralichthys*
267 *olivaceus* (Rupia et al., 2016). Despite increasing scientific interest, the correlations between
268 metabolic rate, pace of life and phenotypic traits are less than clear (Careau et al., 2009; Harvey et al.,
269 1991; Lovegrove, 2009; White and Seymour, 2004). Our study adds to the growing evidence for a
270 positive correlation between metabolic rate and a phenotypic trait: Standard metabolic rate (SMR) and
271 boldness.

272 Intriguingly, and in contrast to SMR, neither MMR nor AS were significantly elevated in bold gobies.
273 MMR and AS are both measures linked to the performance of the individual: MMR sets the ceiling
274 for aerobic metabolic performance, and AS constitutes the metabolic confinement within which
275 aerobic activities must take place (Behrens et al., 2018, 2006; Fry, 1947; Norin and Clark, 2016). This
276 discrepancy may seem surprising, because a higher SMR unmatched with a higher aerobic metabolic
277 capacity is more of a fitness burden than a fitness advantage. In other species, boldness has been

278 shown to be accompanied by higher aerobic metabolic capacity, e.g. bold bluegill sunfish, *Lepomis*
279 *macrochirus*, having 25% greater AS compared to shy fish, supported by a 15% greater MMR (Binder
280 et al., 2016), and bold olive flounder likewise exhibited both increased MMR and AS (Rupia et al.,
281 2016). Notably, high and low MMR are generally believed to correlate with more athletic and
282 sedentary lifestyles, respectively (Norin and Clark, 2016). Round goby is a sedentary benthic fish that
283 rarely undertakes prolonged swimming and rather displays a burst-and-hold swim style (Tierney et al.,
284 2011; Kornis et al., 2012). So it could be speculated that in the absence of movements requiring
285 aerobic endurance, there may simply be no evolutionary benefits of high MMR (or AS) in this
286 species, irrespectively of personality. Short sprint-type swims (including also escapes from predators)
287 might have a different metabolic underpinning, relying fully or partly on anaerobic energy production,
288 where the strength and/or duration of the response could differ among behavioural types (Killen et al.,
289 2013). To strengthen our mechanistic understanding of the physiological ramifications of behavioral
290 types it would thus be of interest to investigate potential causal links between personality and capacity
291 for anaerobic energy production.

292 Overall, if we were to formulate a behavior–physiology syndrome based on our results bolder round
293 goby should be more inclined towards exploratory behavior, increasing prey encounter rates – but also
294 predator encounter rates. For smaller size-at-age round goby this poses a particular risk since a
295 smaller body size in fish typically translates into higher predation risk compared to a larger body size
296 (Ebenman and Persson, 1988; Hambright, 1991; Nilsson and Bronmark, 2000).

297 *4.2 Ecological implications of growth-rate specific personality and SMR differences*

298 Growth rate in fish can be a highly heritable trait. While there is no information on how plastic the
299 growth rate is in round goby, it should be safe to assume that our indirect measure of size-at-age is a
300 robust estimator of growth rate at the time of measurement of SMR. The difference in size-at-age in
301 concert with the SMR difference between shy and bold individuals suggests a connection between
302 growth rate, SMR and personality. Based on this connection we speculate that bolder and smaller
303 individuals are simply forced to take risks such as predation encounters because of their higher SMR
304 relative to larger and shyer conspecifics. In other words, the high-SMR bold fish require more

305 resources to sustain basic life functions than their low-SMR shy conspecifics, and, at least in some
306 species, bold phenotypes do run a greater risk of predation in the wild (Hulthén et al., 2017).
307 Alternatively, assuming that food intake is equal, less energy can be allocated for somatic growth in
308 bold fish. Future studies focusing on a more controlled manipulation of e.g. food intake and thus
309 growth and size across different individuals are needed. Such manipulative studies should convey
310 indicated mechanisms behind the relationship between growth rate and SMR.

311 *4.3 Consideration on invasion history in relation to size of bold round goby*

312 Round goby in the present study originated from an established (since 2009), high-density population,
313 where the fish (suggestively due to high competition for food) are overall slower-growing and in
314 poorer condition compared to fish sampled from recently invaded locations further northward along
315 the coastline (Azour et al., 2015). In the Danube river system, round goby from founder populations at
316 the invasion front differed in a variety of traits compared to longer-established round goby
317 populations, including being larger and heavier, and with higher condition factors than those from
318 established areas, their larger size resulting in superior competitive ability for food (Brandner et al.,
319 2013). In these two studies, fish were not examined for personality type, but recent studies have
320 documented personality-dependent dispersal in this species, with bold, asocial round goby being more
321 prone to lead the invasion front (Thorlacius et al., 2015; Thorlacius and Brodin, 2017). In addition,
322 behavioral differentiation between young and old populations has been documented in the Baltic Sea,
323 suggesting phenotype-dependent dispersal or environmental filtering of phenotypes (Thorlacius et al.
324 in review). Recent research also found that round goby from an invasion front had higher SMR than
325 individuals from established areas (Myles-Gonzalez et al., 2015).

326 From the present study we can conclude that being bold not only entails an increased metabolic cost
327 (higher SMR), but that this relationship is also reflected in a smaller size-at-age in a well-established
328 population. This provides some first empirical insights into novel connections of fish individuality to
329 a classic ecological prediction for invasive species: that increasing interspecific density and
330 competition for food will eventually limit growth rates in newly established populations (Strayer et
331 al., 2017). Indeed, this prediction has been experimentally confirmed in round goby, which starkly

332 decrease growth rates with increasing population density due to interference competition (Kornis et
333 al., 2014).

334

335 *4.4 Future research on relevant connections between personality, metabolism, and growth rate*

336 Based on our data it would be of great interest to further investigate if bold round goby from the
337 invasion front further north along the coastline are larger, and if that reflects an ability to offset the
338 increased energetic demand (i.e. higher SMR) by superior access to, and decreased competition for,
339 food. Such knowledge could play a crucial role in explaining the dynamics in population density that
340 many invasive populations go through (Strayer et al. (2017), but could also be important for better
341 predicting the ecological consequences of a biological invasion. Furthermore, since round goby
342 largely rely on anaerobically fueled burst-type swimming, determinations of lactate levels after a
343 chase protocol could reveal if the capacity for anaerobic energy production vary among behavioural
344 types.

345

346 **Acknowledgements**

347 **Funding**

348 This work resulted from funding from The Gyllenstiernska Krapperup's Foundation and the BONUS
349 INSPIRE project supported by BONUS (Art 185), funded jointly by the EU and the Swedish
350 Research Council Formas.

351

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