#### ORIGINAL RESEARCH



# Unidirectional response to bidirectional selection on body size II. Quantitative genetics

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## **Abstract**

Anticipating the genetic and phenotypic changes induced by natural or artificial selection requires reliable estimates of trait evolvabilities (genetic variances and covariances). However, whether or not multivariate quantitative genetics models are able to predict precisely the evolution of traits of interest, especially fitness-related, life history traits, remains an open empirical question. Here, we assessed to what extent the response to bivariate artificial selection on both body size and maturity in the medaka Oryzias latipes, a model fish species, fits the theoretical predictions. Three lines (Large, Small, and Control lines) were differentially selected for body length at 75 days of age, conditional on maturity. As maturity and body size were phenotypically correlated, this selection procedure generated a bi-dimensional selection pattern on two life history traits. After removal of nonheritable trends and noise with a random effect ("animal") model, the observed selection response did not match the expected bidirectional response. For body size, Large and Control lines responded along selection gradients (larger body size and stasis, respectively), but, surprisingly, the Small did not evolve a smaller body length and remained identical to the Control line throughout the experiment. The magnitude of the empirical response was smaller than the theoretical prediction in both selected directions. For maturity, the response was opposite to the expectation (the Large line evolved late maturity compared to the Control line, while the Small line evolved early maturity, while the opposite pattern was predicted due to the strong positive genetic correlation between both traits). The mismatch between predicted and observed response was substantial and could not be explained by usual sources of uncertainties (including sampling effects, genetic drift, and error in G matrix estimates).

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#### KEYWORDS

animal model, artificial selection, asymmetric response, Bayesian mixed models, bivariate selection, evolvability, G matrix

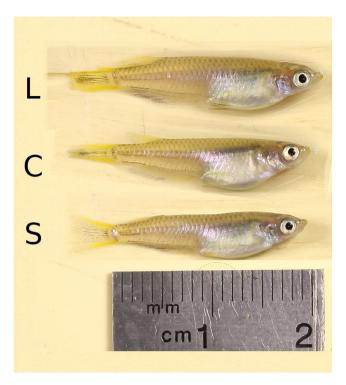
#### 1 | INTRODUCTION

Quantitative genetics offer simple and practical models to understand the evolution of complex traits in populations (Falconer & MacKay, 1996; Lynch & Walsh, 1998). In practice, these models are used both to analyze past selection response (identifying the factors involved in phenotypic change), and to predict the potential response to selection in a population. The rate of phenotypic change per generation is estimated by multiplying a measurement of the standing genetic (heritable) variation by a measurement of the strength of selection. In the simplest univariate model (the "breeder's equation," Lush, 1937), the genetic variation can be quantified by the heritability h<sup>2</sup> (proportion of the phenotypic variance that is heritable between parents and offspring). This setting is convenient when a unique trait is under selection, such as in some selective breeding programs, but becomes rapidly limited when the selection pressure is more complex and targets multiple traits at once. Multivariate models propose a different setting and quantify evolvability through the "G" matrix of additive genetic (co)variances across traits, and selection through a vector of selection gradients β (Blows, 2007; Lande, 1979; Lande & Arnold, 1983; McGuigan, 2006). This approach offers efficient tools to explore theoretically and estimate empirically the properties of multivariate evolution and genetic constraints in complex and integrated biological systems (Cheverud, 1984; Hansen & Houle, 2008; Houle, Bolstad, van der Linde, & Hansen, 2017).

Although the data are heterogeneous (various organisms and different kinds of traits) and experimental results lack consistency, the general pattern that seems to emerge from artificial selection experiments is that quantitative genetics may predict short-term direct responses (phenotypic change of a single selected trait) convincingly (Walsh & Lynch, 2018, p. 606), correlated responses (genetic change in a trait that is genetically correlated to a selected trait, without being the target of selection) at least qualitatively (Gromko, 1995), while the response to multivariate selection (in which the selection gradient affects several traits) may be complex and inconsistent in some cases (Roff, 1997, p. 188, Roff, 2007 for review). In uncontrolled environments, such as in wild populations, even univariate predictions may fail (Merilä, Sheldon, & Kruuk, 2001). Whether such unconvincing predictions are due to experimental issues, unrealistic assumptions, or flaws in the multivariate quantitative genetics theory, largely remains to be determined. There are indeed many reasons why an experimental selection response could deviate from the theoretical prediction. Some of these mechanisms, such as genetic drift, are compatible with the mainstream theoretical framework, although rarely quantified and accounted for in the analysis of selection

responses (Hadfield, Wilson, Garant, Sheldon, & Kruuk, 2010; Lynch, 1988). Other mechanisms, including environmental trends, genetic x environment interactions, directional epistasis, or scaling effects, are absent from the basic textbook models; including them in specific models is, however, generally possible (Le Rouzic, Houle, & Hansen, 2011; Martinez, Bünger, & Hill, 2000; Walsh & Lynch, 2018). More problematic for the standard theory are criticisms concentrating on additive genetic correlations being too crude to capture the complexity of trait associations. This includes claims that understanding the evolution of high-level quantitative traits (such as developmental or morphological traits) cannot be achieved without considering proximal physiological mechanisms (Davidowitz, Roff, & Nijhout, 2016), that the linear assumptions may not hold on complex genotype-phenotype maps (Milocco & Salazar-Ciudad, 2020), or that predictions rely on a poor understanding of the nature and stability of genetic correlations, which could be extremely labile (Gutteling et al., 2007).

We investigated the phenotypic consequences of artificial selection on the medaka fish (Oryzias latipes) for a broad set of morphological, physiological, and life history traits, among which two were under direct selection. Wild-caught fish were submitted to 6 generations of truncation selection on fish length at 75 days. The experimental procedure generated three populations; a Large line, in which only large fish were bred, a Small line, in which only small fish were bred, mimicking harvest-like selection regime, and a Control line, in which fish were bred independently from their size. As the experimental design discarded de facto immature fish from the breeding pool, all three lines were thus also affected by a selection pressure for early maturity, a trait that was phenotypically correlated with size. Selection was thus essentially bivariate, in divergent directions across lines for body size and in the same direction (but with different intensities) for maturity. After 6 generations of artificial selection, all lines evolved, but phenotypic response did not follow the selection differentials. Fish body size evolved only in the Large line, but not in the Small line, which remained statistically indistinguishable from the Control line (Figure 1). Conversely, the frequency of mature fish did not increase in spite of a positive selection differential in all three lines. These results confirm that anticipating qualitatively and quantitatively the consequences of multivariate selection on fish morphology and physiology cannot be based on the fitness function, but also needs to account for a deeper understanding of the functional and evolutionary relationships between selected traits. The physiological and life history trait changes associated with the selection response are detailed in a companion paper Renneville et al. (2020). Here, we will investigate to what extent multivariate quantitative genetic models, which include explicit genetic covariance components, could explain and predict such a counterintuitive selection response.



**FIGURE 1** Illustration of the selection response on body size in the medaka *Oryzias latipes* after five episodes of artificial selection. This photomontage displays on the same scale individuals from the F6 generation that are very close to the average length of the Large line (20.95 mm, top), Control line (19.80 mm, middle), and Small line (19.63 mm, bottom)

## 2 | MATERIALS AND METHODS

# 2.1 | Biological material and experimental procedure

The initial population was derived from 100 wild adult medaka (Oryzias latipes) sampled in June 2011 in Kiyosu (Aichi Prefecture), Japan. Wild-caught fish were stored in outdoor tanks for a year, and about 60 of them were brought to the laboratory and mated in groups of 3 to 6 individuals to produce a  $F_{-1}$  generation. From this point, fish were kept as 15-individual full-sib "families" in 3 L aquariums under controlled laboratory conditions (27°C, 14:10 day light cycles, ad libitum feeding). This setting made it possible to record the pedigree in the full experiment. After two generations of random mating (54 and 56 pairs, respectively), the F<sub>1</sub> mature individuals were split into three breeding groups of 15 males and 15 females (one pair per aquarium) (Large, Small, and Control), and artificial selection was further performed for 6 generations, up to generation  $F_7$  (Figure 2). The selection procedure involved two steps: an among-family selection step at day 60, and a within-family selection step at day 75. Body size was first measured at 60 days from the pictures of individual fish (length from snout to the base of the caudal fin), and 10 out of  $\simeq$ 15 families were preselected in each line based on their average length, after having eliminated low density or high mortality tanks. At about 75 days (in practice 76.7  $\pm$  4.4), pairs were formed by selecting the

two largest (respectively, smallest and random) males and females in each family. Immature fish were discarded from the breeding pool. Selection on maturity was necessary to (a) ensure the synchronization of all three lines, (b) avoid selecting individuals that would never reach the reproductive stage, and (c) limit sex identification mistakes when making pairs, as sex determination in immature fish requires molecular techniques. More detailed experimental procedures are provided in Renneville et al. (2020).

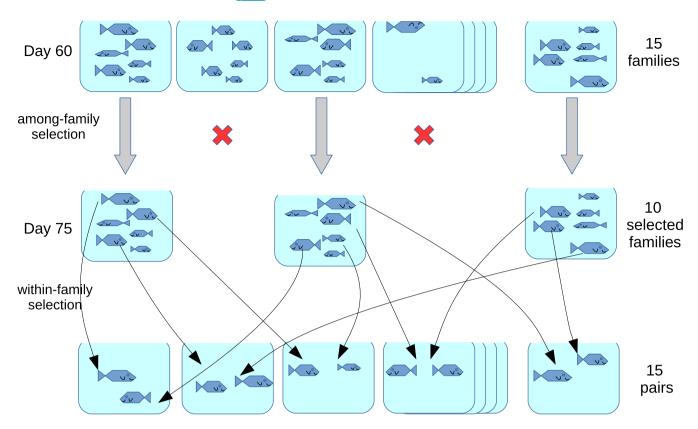
The unavoidable increase in the inbreeding coefficient across generations was limited by a specific procedure. Every generation in all three lines, twenty theoretical pairs of fish (two males and two females from each of the 10 families preselected at 60 days) were determined by a computer resampling procedure (selection of the pairing pattern minimizing the median inbreeding coefficient), and this theoretical pairing pattern was followed as close as possible when fish were selected after 75 days. By generation F<sub>7</sub>, assuming no inbreeding in the  $F_1$  population, the mean inbreeding coefficients were F=0.11 in the Large line, F=0.091 in the Control line, and F = 0.085 in the Small line. As the inbreeding coefficient is expected to increase by a factor  $1 - 1/2N_e$  every generation, inbreeding population size estimates were about  $N_e \simeq 27$ ,  $N_e \simeq 33$ , and  $N_e \simeq 35$ in Large, Control, and Small lines, respectively. This procedure thus made it possible to maintain an inbreeding effective population size around 30 in all three lines.

# 2.2 | Data analysis

The dataset consists in the measurement of body size (Standard Length, further abbreviated Sdl, in mm) at 75 days, the sex, and the maturity (Mat) status for each of the  $n\!=\!5285$  fish of the experiment. The father and the mother of each fish was recorded, except for generation  $F_0$ . All the data analysis was performed with R version 4.0 (R Core Team, 2020). Inbreeding and coancestry coefficients were calculated with the package kinship2 (Therneau & Sinnwell, 2015). An archive containing datasets and scripts to reproduce tables and figures is provided as a supplementary file.

#### 2.2.1 | Selection differentials and gradients

Effective selection differentials were calculated as the difference between the average phenotype of the breeders (weighted by the actual number of surviving offspring) and the average phenotype of the population (Walsh & Lynch, 2018, p. 487). Since all individuals (breeders and nonbreeders) were phenotyped, differentials were not affected by sampling and were considered to be known with certainty (i.e., measurement error was neglected). As the selection procedure involved both among- and within-family selection, two selection differentials were calculated: The among-family differential  $S_a$  measures how much the preselected families diverge from the population mean, and the within-family differential  $S_w$  measures the difference between selected individuals and the average of their



**FIGURE 2** Illustration of the selection protocol. From generation  $F_1$ , three selected lines (Large, Control, and Small lines) were kept independently, with 15 full-sib families per line (in practice: mean  $\pm$  std. dev. =  $15.4\pm2.7$  families per selected line). The density was normalized at 15 fish per tank (in practice:  $13.9\pm5.8$ ). Fish were pictured, measured, and sex-determined at 60 and 75 days. Selection happened in two stages, among families at 60 days, and within families at 75 days. At 60 days, 10 families out of 15 were preselected based on two criteria: density (tanks with low fish counts were discarded), and average size. Families discarded from the breeding pool were kept and measured at 75 days, and were thus considered when computing the population mean. At 75 days, breeders were picked within preselected families based on two criteria: maturity (immature fish, which sex could not be determined, were never selected) and size (large fish in the Large line, small fish in the Small line, and random fish in the Control line). Fifteen pairs of fish were formed in each line, in a pattern that minimizes inbreeding. The offspring of each pair then constitutes the next generation

respective families. According to Walsh and Lynch (2018, p. 736), the expected response to among (full-sib) family selection is  $R_a = h^2 S_a / 2t$ , while the within-family selection response is  $R_w = h^2 S_w / 2(1-t)$ , where  $h^2$  is the narrow-sense heritability, and t is the phenotypic correlation between sibs (i.e., the proportion of the total phenotypic variance that can be attributed to the family structure, computed as the correlation between all pairs of individuals belonging to the same family). In our experiment,  $t=0.23\pm0.14$  (mean  $\pm$  std. dev. among selected lines and generations). The strength of selection was summarized by a composite selection differential  $S = S_a/2t + S_w/2(1-t)$ , which is expected to predict the selection response when multiplied by the heritability. Selection gradients, on which the multivariate selection response theory is based, were obtained by multiplying composite selection differentials by the inverse of the phenotypic variance-covariance matrix ( $V_{P_{\tau}}$  being the phenotypic variance for trait T, and  $C_{\rho_{T_1,T_2}}$  the phenotypic correlation between traits  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ ):

$$\begin{pmatrix} \beta_{\text{SdI}} \\ \beta_{\text{Mat}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} V_{P_{\text{SdI}}} & C_{P_{\text{SdI,Mat}}} \\ C_{P_{\text{SdI,Mat}}} & V_{P_{\text{Mat}}} \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} S_{\text{SdI}} \\ S_{\text{Mat}} \end{pmatrix}$$

Phenotypic variances and covariances ( $V_{P_{\rm Sdl}}$ ,  $V_{P_{\rm Mat}}$ ,  $C_{P_{\rm Sdl,Mat}}$ , and t) were calculated for each line at each generation.

# 2.2.2 | Realized heritability

Realized heritability for body size was estimated by regressing the cumulated response to selection (relative to the Control line) on the cumulated selection differential. We implemented the iterated general least square (GLS) regression suggested in Walsh and Lynch (2018, p. 598) to account for the autocorrelation structure in the cumulated selection response **R**. If **S** is the cumulated vector of selection differentials, the variance structure of the regression is a matrix **V** with elements  $V_{i,j} = h^2 V_P \left( 1/N + i/N_e \right) + (i = j) V_P/N$ , where *N* stands for the size of the population and  $N_e$  is an estimate of the effective population size (considered to be  $N_e \simeq 30$  from the inbreeding population size estimate). The (i = j) term is present only on the diagonal of the **V** matrix. The slope of the GLS regression being  $h^2 = (\mathbf{S}^T \mathbf{V}^{-1} \mathbf{S})^{-1} \mathbf{S}^T \mathbf{V}^{-1} \mathbf{R}$  ( $^T$  stands for matrix transposition), the procedure had to be repeated until convergence since **V** depends on  $h^2$ . The error variance in  $h^2$  was then calculated as  $V_{h_2} = (\mathbf{S}^T \mathbf{V}^{-1} \mathbf{S})^{-1}$ .

#### 2.2.3 | Animal model

Genetic and environmental variance components were estimated from the pedigree with a bivariate mixed-effect linear model framework ("animal" model) (Lynch & Walsh, 1998; Sorensen & Gianola, 2007; Thompson, 2008), which general setting was as follows. As we were considering two traits, the phenotype of an individual i  $(1 \le i \le n)$  is bivariate  $(y_1, y_2)$ , each trait following the classical infinitesimal model in quantitative genetics, for example,  $y_1 = \mu_1 + \alpha_1 + e_1$ , where  $\mu_1$  is the grand mean of trait 1 at the first generation (model intercept),  $\alpha_{1}$ , is the additive genetic (breeding) value of individual i for trait 1, and  $e_1$  is an environmental (nonheritable residual) deviation. The variance-covariance matrix of all 2n breeding values  $[\alpha_{1_1},...,\alpha_{1_n},\alpha_{2_n},...,\alpha_{2_n}]^T$  is the Kronecker product  $\mathbf{G}\otimes\mathbf{A}$ , where G is the 2x2 additive variance-covariance matrix between both traits (additive genetic variances on the diagonal, additive genetic covariance off-diagonal), and A, a  $n \times n$  square and symmetric matrix, is the genetic relationship matrix (which elements are twice the coefficient of coancestry of each pair of individuals, calculated from the pedigree). In a similar way, the variance-covariance matrix of the 2n residuals is  $\mathbf{E} \otimes \mathbf{I}_n$ , where  $\mathbf{E}$  is the 2×2 environmental variance-covariance matrix between both traits, and I , is the identity matrix of size n.

This theoretical setting had to be slightly modified to fit our dataset. The second trait (maturity) is the stochastic realization of an underlying probability  $p_m$  of maturing before 75 days. Phenotypic values were thus considered to be on the probit scale (which fits with the assumption that maturity is a threshold character). In such a model, the mean and the variance are not independent, and the residual variance cannot be estimated. We also considered additional random effects: an aquarium effect (351 levels) to account for the fact that fish in the same aquarium shared a common environment (in addition of sharing the same parents), and a generation effect (8 levels) to account for intergenerational environmental variation. Both additional random effects were defined by  $2 \times 2$  variance—covariance matrices with three independent parameters (variance for Sdl, variance for Mat, and covariance). Finally, the model considered the inbreeding coefficient as a covariate for both body size and maturity.

The model was fitted in a Bayesian framework with the package MCMCglmm (Hadfield, 2010). Markov chains were run for  $10^6$  iterations, with a burn-in of  $10^3$ , and the state of the chain was stored every 100 iteration. In practice, 20 chains were run in parallel and analyzed together with the tools from the package coda (Plummer, Best, Cowles, & Vines, 2006). Defining good priors for covariance matrices is notoriously difficult (Alvarez, Niemi, & Simpson, 2014; Gelman, 2006). We used inverse-Wishart priors with two degrees of freedom ( $\nu$  = 2) for all variance components, except that the residual variance of the binomial trait  $V_E$ (Mat) was fixed to 1. Such priors can be considered as informative compared to the improper  $\nu$  = 0.002 suggestion (de Villemereuil, 2012), but using informative priors was necessary to limit convergence and stationarity issues while remaining denser around zero compared to the  $\nu$  = 3 possibility (uniform marginal distribution for correlations).

In practice, we ran the model twice with a slightly different setting. The "full" model (including all effects and all data) was expected to describe the genetic architecture of both traits during the selection response across all three lines, while a "predictive" model was run to compare theoretical and realized selection response. In order to make prediction independent from observation, the predictive model was run only on data from generations  $\mathsf{F}_0$  and  $\mathsf{F}_1$  (before the divergence among the three lines), and on the Control line from generation  $\mathsf{F}_2$  to  $\mathsf{F}_7$ . In addition, inbreeding effects were removed from the predictive model, as the prediction algorithm was not compatible with fixed effects that are not evenly distributed through time.

# 2.2.4 | Evolution of breeding values

When partitioning the different variance components, the GLMM procedure makes it possible to estimate the posterior distribution for individual breeding values. In order to avoid potential issues when estimating population genetic parameters from the mean breeding values (Hadfield et al., 2010), we computed the evolution of breeding values for each iteration of the chain, and reported the median (as well as the 95% support interval) genetic trend by averaging breeding values per line and per generation. This trend estimates the evolution of the genetic composition of the population with the influence of confounding factors (generation, aquarium, and inbreeding effects) removed.

We also assessed whether the reported genetic trends could be explained by genetic drift by applying the simulation procedure described in Walsh and Lynch (2018, p. 707) and Hadfield et al. (2010). We ran a simulation for each iteration of the MCMC chain; genetic values of the founders of the pedigree (individuals without identified parents) were drawn in a bivariate normal distribution which variance–covariance was a **G** matrix from the posterior distribution, and the full pedigree was then filled recursively by sampling breeding values in a bivariate normal distribution centered on the mean parental breeding values, and of variance–covariance **G**/2.

Since all fish from the same tank share both parents, we used Aquarium effects to catch nonadditive (but possibly heritable) parental contributions to the offspring phenotype. We computed the heritable maternal effect m (Kirkpatrick & Lande, 1989) by regressing the aquarium effect on the mother's breeding value each iteration of the chain for both traits, and analyzed the distribution of m values as a posterior from the model.

# 2.2.5 | Evolutionary predictions

The multivariate prediction of the selection response was obtained by applying the Lande & Arnold equation  $\Delta \mu = G\beta$  (Lande & Arnold, 1983) on the scale at which the assumptions of the infinitesimal model were the most reasonable (trait scale for body size, and latent probit scale for maturity). In practice, we used the framework proposed by de Villemereuil, Schielzeth, Nakagawa,

and Morrissey (2016) implemented in the package QGglmm for R. **G** matrix estimates were derived from the "predictive" model described above. Selection response was predicted by applying the QGmvpred function recursively over generations, assuming a linear fitness function on the data scale (with gradients  $\beta_{\rm Sdl}$  and  $\beta_{\rm Mat}$ ). Every generation, a random bivariate normal deviation of variance  ${\rm G/N_{e,}}$  was added to the population mean to simulate genetic drift (with  ${\it Ne}$  = 25, as approximately estimated from the drift variance in the simulated pedigrees). The predicted response on the latent scale was translated on the data scale for direct comparison with the phenotypic trends by applying the QGmvmean function.

#### 3 | RESULTS

#### 3.1 | Selection gradients

Selection gradients were constant and repeatable throughout the experiment (Figure 3a). The mean realized gradient on SdI in the Large line was  $\beta_{Sdl} = 0.56 \text{ mm}^{-1} \pm \text{SD}0.06$  (i.e., in average, being 1 mm larger increased relative fitness by 56%),  $\beta_{Sdl} = -0.33 \text{ mm}^{-1} \pm 0.19 \text{ in the}$ Small line, and  $\beta_{Sdl} = -0.03 \text{ mm}^{-1} \pm 0.14 \text{ in the Control line.}$  Although the experimental procedure was identical in all three lines regarding maturity (only mature fish were kept for breeding), the fact that both traits were phenotypically correlated generated different selection gradients. Selection gradient on maturity was positive in the Small line ( $\beta_{Mat} = 2.35 \pm 1.26$  expressed in inverse maturity probability, i.e., an increase in 10% in maturity probability raises the relative fitness by 23%), more moderate in Control ( $\beta_{Mat} = 1.12 \pm 0.93$ ) and negative in the Large ( $\beta_{Mat} = -1.71 \pm 1.49$ ) lines. The negative gradient in the Large line in spite of the selection of mature individuals is a consequence of the phenotypic correlation between size and maturity probability (large fish are enriched with individuals that should not have been mature if average sized). When normalized by the phenotypic standard deviation to make them unitless (and thus comparable across traits), gradients were  $\beta(\sigma)_{Sdl} = 1.39$  and  $\beta(\sigma)_{Mat} = -0.55$ in the Large, indicating that selection on body size was dominating.

In contrast, in the Small line, normalized gradients were of the same magnitude ( $\beta(\sigma)_{Sdl} = -0.83$  vs.  $\beta(\sigma)_{Mat} = 0.76$ ). In sum, selection was bivariate and not completely symmetric among selected lines; there was no gradient on body size in the Control line but a slight positive gradient on maturity.

# 3.2 | Phenotypic response to selection

The phenotypic response to selection for fish length and maturity is presented in Figure 4. For both traits, time series were characterized by substantial generation-specific effects. Artificial selection has generated a ≥1 mm difference in body size between the Large and the Control lines (about a 6% increase in length, equivalent to a ~18% increase in mass, illustrated in Figure 1). Virtually all the phenotypic difference was built in two generations of selection, and there was no more phenotypic progress from generations F<sub>3</sub> to F<sub>6</sub>. The difference between Large and Control lines dropped to less than 1 mm in the last generation, but indirect evidence suggest that this was not a stable genetic effect (e.g., the phenotypic difference between Large and Small lines was maintained in fish from later generations, Diaz-Pauli, Garric, Evangelista, Vøllestad, and Edeline (2019). Surprisingly, there was no significant difference between the Control and the Small line; that is, the Small line did not respond to selection on size. Realized heritabilities on body size were positive in the Large line ( $h^2 = 0.059 \pm SE0.023$ ), and virtually zero in the Small line  $(h^2 = -0.027 \pm 0.014)$  (Figure 3b).

The evolution in maturity was characterized by an irregular decrease, especially in the Control and Large lines. As for fish length, maturity was largely affected by generation-specific effects, especially in  ${\rm F_3}$ , when maturity dropped from 95% to 75% in all three lines before increasing again to 90% in  ${\rm F_4}$ . Overall, the general pattern for the bivariate selection response was featured by (a) for body size, a modest selection response in the Large line, but not in the Small line, and (b) for maturity, a modest divergence from the Control line in two opposite directions (earlier maturation in the Small line, later maturation in the Large line).

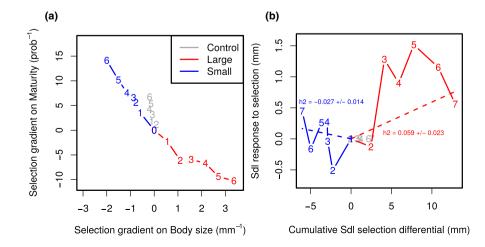


FIGURE 3 (a) Bi-dimensional cumulative selection gradients in all three lines. Gradients were calculated from selection differentials that take into account both within- and amongfamily selection. (b) Cumulative selection differentials versus cumulative selection response for Body size in Large and Small lines, centered on the Control line. The regression coefficient (calculated by GLS procedure independently for both lines) is an estimate of heritability  $h^2(\pm std. err.)$ 



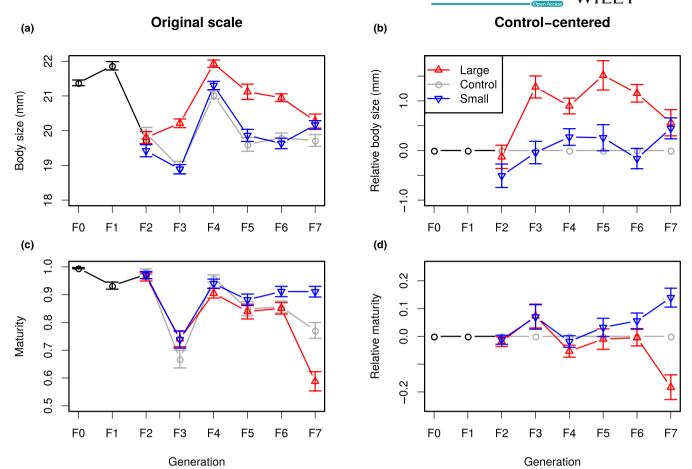


FIGURE 4 Response to selection for body length (a and b), and maturity (c and d) for all three lines (red: Large, blue: Small, gray: Control). (a and c) Phenotypic means, (b and d) control-centered responses. Generations F<sub>0</sub> and F<sub>1</sub> (common to all lines) are drawn in black. Error bars stand for standard errors of the means

## Genetic response to selection

A mixed-effect "animal" model was fit to the data, including three (co)variance components: genetic (additive) G, aquarium/family (A ), which is a batch effect that may include heritable maternal effects, and macro-environmental (generation) (F), in addition to the residual variance E. Variance components were not independent; for instance, aquarium effects and genetic effects were partly confounded, as fish sharing the same aquarium were full-sibs.

Table 1 reports the variance components as the median and 95% support interval of the posterior distribution from the MCMC Bayesian analysis. The table also displays heritabilities  $(h^2 = G/(G+A+E))$  for both traits as well as correlations (r) for all variance components. Model stationarity was unproblematic, but posteriors displayed a substantial amount of autocorrelation (Appendix S1), making it necessary to run long MCMC chains to compensate the poor mixing. The additive genetic variance for body size was  $V_G(SdI) = 0.79 \text{ mm}^2$ , and heritability was  $h^2 = 0.14$ , which is more than the realized heritability (although not statistically different). The residual covariance between both traits was substantial, corresponding to a correlation  $r_F = 0.94$  between residual body size and residual probit maturity probability. The genetic correlation was positive, but lower than for the residuals ( $r_G = 0.62$ ). The posterior distribution of the variance components is illustrated in Figure 5. The effect of inbreeding was negative for both traits (with some statistical support for maturity). Heritable maternal effects were small, slightly negative, and not statistically different from zero.

The generation effect variance was relatively high, especially for Maturity. This generation effect not only captures intergenerational fluctuations, but it also corrects for a general trend in the time series for both traits. Figure 6 displays the genetic (average of breeding values posterior distributions) and nongenetic (from the generation effects) trends from the best model.

The strength of genetic drift during the selection response was quantified by simulating breeding values based on the estimated G matrix in the real pedigree. Figure 7 shows that the 95% support interval of the distribution of average breeding values under genetic drift encompasses the median trend of breeding values in all lines and traits except for the body size of the Large line, which exceeds the drift interval for the last 3 generations. As the variance across replicates is expected to increase by a factor  $V_A/N_e$  each generation, this procedure made it possible to estimate a drift effective population size in each line, which was  $N_{\rho} = 23$ ,  $N_{\rho} = 20$ , and  $N_{\rho} = 25$  in Control, Large, and Small lines (averaged over both traits), respectively.

	Full			Predictive		
	2.5%	Median	97.5%	2.5%	Median	97.5%
V <sub>G</sub> (SdI)	0.41	0.86	1.44	1.00	1.82	2.71
h <sup>2</sup> (Sdl)	0.07	0.15	0.25	0.17	0.30	0.43
V <sub>G</sub> (Mat)	0.21	0.51	1.14	0.56	1.48	3.97
h <sup>2</sup> (Mat)	0.12	0.25	0.43	0.25	0.46	0.67
C <sub>G</sub> (Sdl,Mat)	0.10	0.43	0.94	0.60	1.42	2.78
$r_{G}$ (Sdl, Mat)	0.31	0.65	0.81	0.72	0.87	0.94
$V_E$ (SdI)	3.01	3.34	3.63	2.45	2.99	3.53
C <sub>E</sub> (Sdl,Mat)	1.61	1.72	1.81	1.36	1.57	1.75
$r_E$ (Sdl, Mat)	0.92	0.94	0.96	0.84	0.91	0.94
V <sub>A</sub> (SdI)	1.14	1.40	1.70	0.88	1.22	1.67
$V_A$ (Mat)	0.34	0.50	0.73	0.35	0.72	1.43
<b>C</b> <sub>A</sub> (Sdl,Mat)	0.37	0.54	0.75	-0.06	0.25	0.62
$r_A$ (Sdl, Mat)	0.50	0.65	0.77	-0.07	0.27	0.54
$V_F$ (SdI)	0.41	1.05	3.64	0.57	1.62	6.05
$V_F$ (Mat)	0.60	1.53	5.46	1.08	3.26	12.88
$C_F$ (Sdl,Mat)	-0.39	0.50	2.69	0.15	1.53	6.90
$r_F$ (Sdl, Mat)	-0.29	0.45	0.85	0.09	0.72	0.94
<b>f</b> <sub>Sdl</sub>	-15.74	-6.78	2.31			
$\mathbf{f}_{Mat}$	-18.07	-10.21	-2.73			
$m_{Sdl}$	-0.19	-0.04	0.11	-0.19	0.00	0.18
m <sub>Mat</sub>	-0.16	-0.04	0.09	-0.18	-0.02	0.14

**TABLE 1** Posterior median and 95% support interval from the MCMCglmm model fit, for the full model (left) and the predictive model (right)

Note: V and C stand for variance and covariances, respectively, and subscripts indicate different random effects: additive genetic effects G, aquarium effects A, residual effects E, and generation effects E, and E correspond to inbreeding and maternal effects, respectively. Sdl is assumed to be Gaussian, and Mat is binomial, on a probit scale (its residual variance  $V_E(Mat)$  is fixed to 1 instead of being estimated). Bold-faced variables were the direct output of the model, other variables were estimated by a combination of those (see Methods).

# 3.4 | Selection response prediction

In addition to providing the theoretical framework to design statistical models for the estimation of variance components, quantitative genetics also aims at predicting the selection response from the genetic architecture of phenotypic traits. In practice, testing the predictive power of such models requires a specific protocol, as genetic variance components need to be estimated from the starting population (from, e.g., an experimental cross-design) and compared to the realized selection response. Although we do not have access to a direct measurement of additive variance components in the starting population here, we estimated the G matrix by fitting the animal model on the Control line individuals (including Fo and F<sub>1</sub> generations), and compared the predicted selection response to the observed response from the selected lines (no overlap between both datasets). Even when considering uncertainties due to the estimation procedure as well as genetic drift, there was no overlap between predicted and observed evolution for body size (insufficient realized selection response, Figure 8a), while the prediction was even not in the correct direction for maturity (Figure 8b). For both

traits, the mismatch was largely supported statistically for the Large line, and on the edge of the 95% support interval for the Small line. The bivariate representation of the predicted versus observed selection response (Figure 8c) shows that the gradient were oriented close to the line of most evolutionary resistance of the **G** matrix, the predicted response was close to the line of least evolutionary resistance (main axis of the **G** matrix), while the observed response was tiny and inconsistent.

## 4 | DISCUSSION

Artificial selection has long been proven to be an efficient way to simulate evolutionary processes in controlled conditions (Conner, 2003; Hill & Caballero, 1992). Here, we applied a classical truncation selection scheme, with substantial improvements compared to classical mass breeding experiments: (a) we kept track of the pedigree during the whole experiment, (b) crosses were optimized to limit inbreeding, which kept the effective inbreeding population size above  $N_e\!=\!27$  in all three lines, (c) we recorded fecundity and mortality rates in

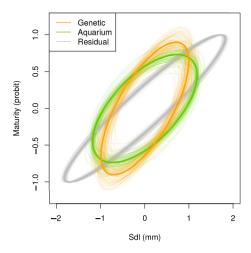


FIGURE 5 Graphical representation of the posterior distribution of the (co)variance matrix for genetic, aquarium, and residual effects (full model). Thin lines represent individual iterations of the MCMC chain, while the thick line is the mean posterior. The binomial nature of the maturity trait fixes the residual variance to 1

3 years, for 8 generations and 6 episodes of selection, which may not be conclusive for low-evolvability traits). Nevertheless, in spite of such logistic limitations, our > 5000 fish pedigree displayed sufficient statistical power to (a) evidence a mismatch between predicted and observed selection response, and (b) discard genetic drift as the driver of this mismatch. In sum, the size of the experiment might be too limited to fully understand and generalize how life history traits respond to complex multivariate selection, but is sufficient to conclude that the observed response does not follow quantitative genetics predictions.

# Departure from theoretical predictions

# 4.1.1 | Nongenetic effects

In spite of the tight control over environmental conditions (constant food, lighting, water quality and temperature), the data analysis highlighted a substantial amount of generation-specific effects that

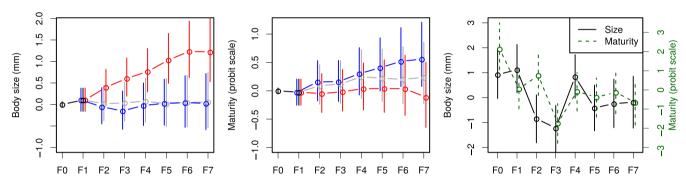
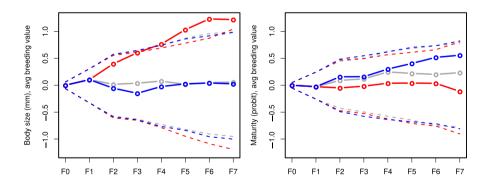


FIGURE 6 Estimated dynamics of genetic (left and center) and generation (right) effects from the full model. The figure represents the median and 95% support interval over MCMC replicates

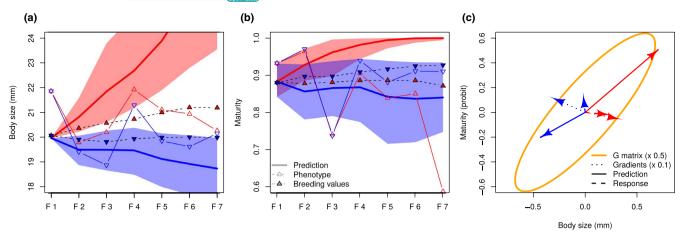
FIGURE 7 Estimation of the genetic space that is reachable by genetic drift along the selection response (95% support interval: hyphenated lines) (simulated pedigrees with G matrices sampled from the posterior distribution) versus estimated genetic trends (plain lines)



all families, making it possible to evaluate the potential strength of natural selection, (d) we raised a control line in the same conditions as selected lines, which helps distinguishing nongenetic and genetic trends, and (e) we selected explicitly on both body size and maturity, and considered both life history traits simultaneously in our analysis. The main drawback of this approach is an increased cost and human power involved, which necessarily limits the size of the experiment in terms of replicates (three lines in total) and duration (almost

obscured the genetic selection response. Generations F<sub>0</sub>, F<sub>1</sub>, and F<sub>4</sub> appeared to be substantially "better" (larger body size and higher maturity frequency) than, e.g.,  $F_3$  and  $F_7$ . The fact that "good" generations were closer to the beginning of the experiment tends to generate an overall decreasing trend, which was difficult to interpret.

A candidate explanation relies on an increase in inbreeding, which is unavoidable in such an experiment. Inbreeding coefficients



**FIGURE 8** Predicted versus realized selection responses. The expected selection response was simulated by applying the Lande-Arnold equation  $\Delta z = G\beta$  recursively over six generations, using the selection gradients  $\beta$  estimated in Figure 3 and G matrices from the posterior distribution of the animal model applied on data from the Control line (so that the realized selection response was not part of the G matrix estimate). Genetic drift was simulated by applying a random deviation of variance  $G/N_e$  with  $N_e = 25$  every generation. (a and b) predicted time series for body size and maturity, respectively. Plain lines: predicted responses (Large line in red, Small line in blue); open symbols: actual phenotypic response; hyphenated lines and filled symbols: median genetic response estimated from Figure 6. Shaded areas represent the 95% support interval. (c) bivariate average gradients (dotted lines), average predicted responses (plain lines) and average genetic responses (hyphenated lines)

were included as covariates in the model, and caught part of the trend for both traits (the negative effect of inbreeding on maturity—but not on body size—being statistically supported, Appendix S2). However, a causal link between inbreeding and measured traits remains dubious. The optimized pairing protocol limited the increase in inbreeding below 10% from generations  $F_0$  to  $F_7$ , which is unlikely to generate inbreeding depression. Furthermore, we found no correlation between phenotypic traits and inbreeding coefficient within generations. Finally, the residual environmental trend on body size and maturity remained negative even after accounting for the effect of inbreeding in the model, suggesting an inbreeding-independent phenomenon.

#### 4.1.2 | Evolutionary trends

One of the most unexpected result of this experiment was the lack of response to selection on body size in the Small line, in spite of a substantial and consistent selection gradient. This lack of phenotypic response was confirmed by the breeding value predictions from the animal model.

The inaccurate predictions could be due, to some extent, to inconsistent variance components in the experiment. This possibility was addressed by fitting the model on different generations or different selected lines (Appendix S3), which should provide compatible posterior distributions of the assumptions of the infinitesimal model were holding. Excluding the Control line decreases substantially the estimated additive variance for both traits, which is consistent with the mismatch between the observed selection responses and the evolution predicted from the Control line. Walsh and Lynch (2018, p. 611) proposed a list of 13 possible explanations for asymmetric selection responses, which we tried to address as thoroughly as possible (Table 2).

None of these explanations, taken individually, was particularly convincing. The potential for genetic drift to generate unexpected evolutionary patterns is substantial, and ruling out the influence of drift in laboratory experiments in notoriously difficult (Lynch, 1988), especially with unreplicated selection lines. Nevertheless, we were able to exclude genetic drift as a major explanatory factor of the observed response: effective population sizes were rather large for such an experiment ( $N_e \simeq 25$ ), and the support intervals predicted for genetic drift from simulated pedigrees (Figure 7) were smaller than the predicted response mismatch (Figure 8).

The fact that Large and Small lines were set in different competitive environments appears as an appealing explanation for the asymmetric response. Indeed, in order to keep track of the pedigree, fish were raised in the same tank as their full-sibs. If small or large body size was partly correlated to any competitive behavioral trait, the environment was varying during the experiment, as fish from the Large line were competing with better competitors every generation. This mechanism could have biased the selection response estimates, and explain the lower-than-expected body size response to selection. However, this possibility is dismissed by indirect evidence from an independent phenotyping experiment in which fish from the present selection experiment at later generations were raised in individual tanks (Diaz-Pauli et al., 2019). In absence of competition, the genetic difference between the Large and Small lines was not larger than we found here, indicating that removing competition did not magnify the phenotypic effects of selection on medaka body size.

Finally, natural selection against a small body size appears unlikely due to several consistent observations: (a) the Control line was affected by a general phenotypic (but not genetic) trend toward smaller body size, not larger; (b) differences in fertility and mortality rates were limited by the experimental procedures, as the number of progeny per fish pair was normalized whenever possible; (c) the difference

TABLE 2 Why do quantitative genetics predictions fail? Thirteen possible explanations for asymmetric responses, as proposed by Walsh and Lynch (2018)

Design artefacts	
Drift	Simulated pedigrees showed that drift could not explain the mismatch (further discussed in the text)
Scale effects	Could not explain absent or reversed selection response
Different effective differentials	The selection procedure normalized the number of offspring irrespective to fertility differences. Effective selection gradients were calculated. No difference in hatching nor mortality rates across treatments. Natural selection against extreme phenotypes was detected (Renneville et al., 2020), but both selected lines were affected symmetrically
Undetected environmental trends	Less likely in controlled laboratory environments. An overall trend was detected, but no reason to expect different abiotic environmental conditions among lines. The competitive environment evolved (fish were raised with sibs), this possibility is further discussed in the text
Effects of previous selection	Two generations of random mating were performed before the first generation of selection, which is expected to limit linkage disequilibrium in ${\sf F_1}$
Selection on correlated characters	The analysis accounts for the two traits that were artificially selected
Nonlinear parent-offspring regre	ession
Major genes with dominance	Parent-offspring regression is rather linear (Appendix S4)
Genotype $\times$ Envir. interactions	The abiotic environment was identical across lines (randomized aquariums). Differences in competitive environments are expected to build up progressively, not to stop selection response from the first generation

Major genes with dominance	Parent-offspring regression is rather linear (Appendix S4)
Genotype × Envir. interactions	The abiotic environment was identical across lines (randomized aquariums). Differences in competitive environments are expected to build up progressively, not to stop selection response from the first generation
Departure from normality	Could not explain absent or reversed selection response
Other sources	
Genetic asymmetries	Could not explain absent or reversed selection response
Inbreeding depression	Limited increase in inbreeding coefficient, and no within-generation correlation with selected traits (Appendix S2)
Maternal effects	Father-offspring and Mother-offspring regressions were very similar (Appendix S4), maternal effects were tiny for both traits
Associative effects	Unlikely in controlled laboratory conditions

between nonweighted selection differentials and effective differentials was reasonably small; (d) natural selection on body length could be indirectly estimated (Renneville et al., 2020), and appeared to be stabilizing (decrease in the number of offspring for both small and large fish).

Selection response on maturity followed an even more unexpected pattern. In the Large line, selection on body size was dominating, leading to an expected increase in maturity due to the strong genetic correlation in spite of a weak negative selection gradient on maturity. In the Small line, selection on both traits was of the same magnitude, and the expected trend for maturity was slightly decreasing. Yet, both phenotypic and genetic trends were opposite to the prediction. Here again, the mismatch was large enough to discard genetic drift as the only mechanism.

# 4.2 | Consistency with previous results

Due to their close relationship with fitness, life history traits are often suspected to behave differently from other (morphological, physiological, behavioral) characters. Their heritability tends to be lower (Price & Schluter, 1991; Roff, 1997) (probably due to a larger residual variance rather than a low genetic variance, Houle (1992)), and the correlation pattern among fitness-related traits have long been a matter of debate (Houle, 1991; Lande, 1982; Reznick, 1985) with few strong theoretical predictions about the sign of genetic covariances among life history traits. Meta-analyses support the idea that correlations between life history traits range between -1 and 1 depending on traits and organisms, being slightly positive on average, but lower than between other kinds of traits (Roff, 1996). The fact that phenotypic and genetic correlations generally match is well established empirically (Cheverud, 1988; Kruuk, Slate, & Wilson, 2008), although the underlying reasons are unclear. Our results featuring a substantial positive genetic correlation between growth and maturity, associated with a strong residual correlation, are thus not unexpected.

Less expected was the lack of response to directional selection in the Small line. Fish artificially selected for large or small size generally respond to selection in both directions (Diaz-Pauli & Heino, 2014), symmetrically (as in the Atlantic silverside, Conover & Munch, 2002, or in zebrafish, Amaral & Johnston, 2012) or slightly asymmetrically with a slower response in the Small line (in guppy, van Wijk et al., 2013). In the only experiment in which maturity was probably selected together with size (zebra fish, Uusi-Heikkilä et al., 2015), the response was complex and asymmetric (no size change and later age maturation in the Large line, smaller adult size and maturation at a smaller size-but not age-in the Small line).

# 4.3 | Consequences on the response of life history traits to selection pressure

One of the most appealing applications of quantitative genetics outside of their original plant and animal breeding field is related to the prediction of the evolutionary consequences of human activity and/or environmental change on natural populations (Shaw, 2019). For instance, size-selective harvesting induces direct selection pressures on body size and reduces life expectancy, which generates complex selection pressures on correlated life history traits (including growth rate, fertility, survival, and age at maturity) (Heino, Diaz Pauli, & Dieckmann, 2015). Long-term evolutionary trends toward smaller body size, earlier maturity, and as a consequence, lower fecundity are frequent in highly-harvested species (Law, 2000; Trippel, 1995). It is therefore increasingly recognized that fisheries management programs should account for evolutionary change in life history traits (Fenberg & Roy, 2008; Kuparinen & Merilä, 2007; Laugen et al., 2014).

Generalizing results obtained from model species in laboratory to wild species of interest is not straightforward, as differences in environment may condition trait means, trait variances, and genetic correlations (Gutteling et al., 2007; Postma, Visser, & Van Noordwijk, 2007). The development of the 'animal' statistical model makes it possible to evaluate genetic components from observations in unmanipulated wild populations (Kruuk, 2004; Wilson et al., 2010). However, this approach remains particularly sensitive to, for example, gene-by-environment interactions, and the causal factors of observed trends may be difficult to identify formally (Postma & Charmantier, 2007; Walsh & Lynch, 2018). In contrast, controlled experiments (typically, complex breeding schemes) can only be carried out in laboratory conditions, and experimental approaches are often the only way to study key questions in population management, even when studying complex marine ecosystems (Suquet, Rochet, & Gaignon, 2005).

Accounting for evolutionary response management strategies in wild populations generally relies on standard models in ecology and quantitative genetics, which assume that evolution can be reliably predicted when genetic trait variances and covariances are known (Diaz-Pauli & Heino, 2014), which is generally not the case. Here, we show that such standard expectations may not be fulfilled, which questions the possibility to apply general recipes. Our results support the idea that bivariate selection response is hardly predictable even in a controlled environment, which questions the robustness of fishery management genetic models. Although we lack a clear explanation about why some heritable characters may not evolve when selected together, this phenomenon may decrease our confidence in the estimates of phenotypic trajectories for populations under anthropic pressure.

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#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The authors declare no competing financial and/or nonfinancial interests

#### **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

Arnaud Le Rouzic involved in the conceptualization (equal); formal analysis (lead); software (lead); supervision (supporting); writing—original draft (lead); writing—review and editing (lead). Clémentine Renneville performed the data curation (lead); formal analysis (supporting); and investigation (lead). Alexis Millot, Simon Agostini, and David Carmignac performed the data curation (equal) and investigation (equal). Éric Édeline involved in the conceptualization (lead); data curation (equal); formal analysis (supporting); funding acquisition (lead); investigation (equal); project administration (lead); resources (lead); supervision (lead); writing—original draft (supporting); writing—review and editing (equal).

#### DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The data and the R scripts used for the analysis are fully available and provided as supplementary material.

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#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section.

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