Investigating the physiological responses of Pacific white shrimp *Litopenaeus vannamei* to acute cold-stress

Zhenlu Wang¹,², Yuexin Qu¹,², Xiaolei Zhuo³, Junyi Li¹,², Jixing Zou¹,² and Lanfen Fan¹,²

¹ College of Marine Sciences, South China Agricultural University, Guangzhou, China
² Joint Laboratory of Guangdong Province and Hong Kong Region on Marine Bioresource Conservation and Exploitation, South China Agricultural University, Guangzhou, China
³ Qingyuan North River Fishery Science Institute, Qingyuan, China

**ABSTRACT**

**Background:** *Litopenaeus vannamei* is one of the most important aquaculture shrimps in the world and low temperatures present a serious challenge to its survival, growth, and distribution.

**Methods:** To investigate their physiological responses during acute cold-stress, *L. vannamei* were treated under acute cooling conditions from 28 to 13 °C with a cooling rate of 2.5 °C/2 h and were maintained at 13 °C for 12 h. Plasma metabolite concentrations, histological changes, and relative gene expression related to the unfolded protein response (UPR) pathway and apoptosis in the hepatopancreas and the hemocytes of *L. vannamei* were investigated.

**Results:** The results revealed that the concentrations of triglycerides, total cholesterol, and total protein in plasma reached their peaks at 23 °C, and then decreased to their minimum values at 13 °C for 12 h. The activity of alkaline phosphatase in the plasma decreased to its lowest level while the activity of alanine aminotransferase increased to its highest level at 13 °C for 12 h. The hepatic tubules became necrotic and the basement membranes were ruptured at 13 °C for 12 h. The gene expression related to UPR and apoptosis in the hepatopancreas and hemocytes was significantly altered by the decrease in the temperature.

**Discussion:** The results revealed that acute cold-stress caused histological damage in the hepatopancreas of *L. vannamei*, reducing its immunity. The three UPR pathways were involved in the process of acute cold-stress and the response of activating transcription factor 6 to UPR may be faster and more direct than the IRE1 and PERK pathways.

**INTRODUCTION**

The pacific white shrimp, *Litopenaeus vannamei*, has become one of the most important aquaculture shrimps in the world due to a number of characteristics making it suitable for intensive aquaculture, including a wide degree of salt tolerance and rapid growth.
However, a variety of environmental stimuli affect the growth of shrimp, especially temperature, which is highly influential and an annual cold wave causes huge economic losses to the *L. vannamei* breeding industry. Therefore, it is important to investigate the physiological responses of *L. vannamei* to stress caused by low temperatures.

Acute temperature changes may lead to arrests in growth or even death. Previous studies have shown that the genes involved in energy release and the biosynthesis of unsaturated fatty acids were increased with low temperature stress in *Pinctada fucata* (Wang et al., 2018). Low temperatures caused increases in dopamine and norepinephrine, as well as significant oxidative and antioxidant responses in *L. vannamei* (Mapanao et al., 2018; Xu et al., 2018). At 13 °C, *L. vannamei* has significant reductions in feeding and swimming, and deaths were noted at this temperature (Fan, Wang & Wu, 2013; Huang et al., 2017). Our previous study has indicated that GRP78, which is a central regulator of the process of the unfolded protein response (UPR) and apoptosis in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) (Dejean, Martinez-caballero & Kinnally, 2006; Nakka, Gusain & Raghubir, 2010), was significantly up-regulated in the hepatopancreas of *L. vannamei* under 13 °C for 24 h post cold stress (Fan et al., 2016).

In invertebrates, UPR is generally recognized as a key mechanism of the endoplasmic reticulum stress (ERS) response (Chen & He, 2019). UPR includes three classic signaling pathways: the activating transcription factor 6 (ATF6) pathway, the inositol-requiring enzyme-1-X-box binding protein 1 (IRE1-XBP1) pathway, and the protein kinase RNA (PKR)-like ER kinase-eIF2α (PERK-eIF2α) pathway (Sidrauski & Walter, 1997; Mori, 2009; Costa, Rosa & De Camargo, 2011). The ATF6 and IRE1-XBP1 pathways help to mitigate imbalances by increasing the capacity for proper protein folding (Li et al., 2000; Chakrabarti, Chen & Varner, 2011; Sun et al., 2015), while the PERK-eIF2α pathway can alleviate ERS by decreasing the load of newly synthesized peptides (Harding et al., 2000; Kebache et al., 2004). UPR is a self-protective mechanism and induces rescue or an adaptive response. However, if stress is prolonged, apoptotic signals will be generated in order to protect the organism by eliminating the damaged cells. Apoptosis signal-regulated kinase 1 (ASK1) is a mitogen-activated protein kinase, which is essential for the continuous activation of JNK and apoptosis (Tobiume et al., 2001). Cysteine-containing aspartate-specific proteases (Caspases) are a family of proteases that perform apoptosis in animals. The activation of caspase 3 (CASP3) indicates that apoptosis has entered an irreversible stage. Apoptosis mediated by ERS triggers a specific cascade of caspase 12, 9, and 3 (Morishima et al., 2002). All of these related genes (GRP78, ATF6, IRE1, XBP1, PERK, eIF2α, ATF4, ASK1, and CASP3) have been cloned, which makes studies of the UPR signaling pathway and apoptosis in *L. vannamei* available (Chen et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2013; Xu, Ruan & Shi, 2014; Yuan et al., 2016, 2017). However, the roles of UPR and apoptosis in cold stress have not been reported.

The hepatopancreas is a vital organ of the crustacean, having many important physiological functions, including those of immunity and digestion. The activity of alanine aminotransferase (ALT) in plasma can reflect damage to the hepatopancreas (Nyblom et al., 2004; Yan et al., 2016). Alkaline phosphatase (ALP) plays an important role in the
immune system against pathogens, therefore, the activity of ALP in plasma can reflect the immunity level of shrimp. Glucose (Glu) is considered to be the main source of energy, while triglycerides (TG) and total cholesterol (TC) (the main components of lipids) can supply and store energy. Total protein (TP) is also able to provide energy and transport various metabolites.

In this study, the metabolite concentrations of plasma, the histology of the hepatopancreases, and gene expression related to UPR and cell apoptosis in the hepatopancreas and hemocytes of *L. vannamei* during acute cold-stress were analyzed. These results could provide useful information with which to investigate the physiological responses of shrimp in low temperatures.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Animals**

The experimental *L. vannamei* (5.28 ± 0.50 g) were purchased from a commercial farm in Panyu (Guangdong, China). The shrimp were immediately transported to the lab and acclimated in 500 L air-pumped tanks filled with circulating diluted seawater for at least 4 days before the start of the experiments. During the acclimation stage, the water salinity and temperature in the tanks were consistent with those of the culture ponds (water salinity 5‰ and temperature 28 ± 1 °C). A commercial shrimp diet was fed twice per day.

**Acute cold-stress**

A total of 45 healthy shrimp were randomly divided into three tanks. They were placed in an artificial climate incubator (Laifu) and the water temperature was decreased from 28 to 13 °C with a cooling rate of 2.5 °C/2 h and were maintained at 13 °C for 12 h.

**Sample collection**

Hemolymph (250 uL) was obtained from the ventral sinus of the shrimp with a one mL sterile syringe containing an equal volume of ice-cold anticoagulant solution (27 mM trisodium citrate, 385 mM sodium chloride, 115 mM Glu, and pH 7.5). The hemocytes of two shrimp were pooled together as one sample, with three replicates at each treatment point (28, 23, 18, and 13 °C, and maintained in 13 °C for 12 h). After being centrifuged for 3 min at 3,000 rpm at 4 °C, the supernatant fluid was immediately stored at −80 °C for analysis of the plasma metabolite concentrations by an automatic biochemical analyzer (BS-200; Mindray, Shenzhen, China). The sediment (hemocytes) was collected, instantly frozen in liquid nitrogen, and then stored at −80 °C for gene expression analysis (*Zhao et al., 2016*). The hepatopancreas was dissected from the cephalothoraxes and washed with 0.85% pre-cooled sterilized normal saline at 4 °C. The whole hepatopancreas was collected for histological analysis and fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (Biosharp, Hefei, China) for tissue fixation and stored at 4 °C for paraffin sections by Servicebio (Wuhan, China). Tissue slices were examined with microscopy (Nikon, Tokyo, Japan) and the Mshot Image Analysis System was used to photograph the stained sections.
The hepatopancreas (40–50 mg) was then immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen for real-time quantitative PCR and stored at −80 °C.

**RNA extraction and cDNA synthesis**

Total RNA was extracted using RNAiso Plus reagent (Takara, Kusatsu, Shiga Prefecture, Japan) following the manufacturer’s protocol. RNA quality was assessed by electrophoresis on a 1.0% agarose gel and its concentration was tested by mySPEC (VWR, Radnor, PA, USA). The total RNA was purified and the first-strand cDNA was synthesized using ReverTra Ace® qPCR RT Master Mix with gDNA Remover (TOYOBO, Osaka, Osaka Prefecture, Japan) according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

**Real-time quantitative PCR**

The SYBR Green real-time PCR assays were carried out on a CFX Connect™ Real-Time System (BIO-RAD, Hercules, CA, USA) using THUNDERBIRD® SYBR® qPCR Mix without Rox (TOYOBO, Osaka, Osaka Prefecture, Japan). Specific primer sequences were designed based on the coding sequence of the target genes using Primer 6.0 software (Table 1). The real-time PCR program was set at 1 min for 95 °C, followed by 40 cycles of 95 °C for 15 s, 60 °C for 15 s, and 72 °C for 45 s, and by a final denaturation step of 95 °C for 10 s. Melting curves were obtained by increasing the temperature from 65 to 95 °C (0.5 °C/s) to denature the double-stranded DNA.

**Table 1** Nucleotide sequences of the real-time PCR primers used in this study.

| Primer names | Nucleotide sequences (5′–3′) |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| LvGRP78-F    | TCATTGCCAACGACCAGGGT         |
| LvGRP78-R    | TCCGATGAGACGCTTGTCAT         |
| LvPERK-F     | TCCTGACATCATATTATGCTTCC      |
| LvPERK-R     | TGAAGCTCATGCTCTGTGCAATCC     |
| LvatF2z-F    | GGAACCTGTGTGTTGTCATGAGT     |
| LvatF2z-R    | AGAAGCTCTCCACATGGCGAATG     |
| LvatATF4-F   | GCCACGATTCAAGATGCTGC         |
| LvatATF4-R   | TCCTCCTGTCATGCCATA           |
| LvatATF6-F   | CTGTTGGGACAAGGACATAAGC       |
| LvatATF6-R   | GAATTTTGAGGTGTGGCCAGCTGTTTA |
| LviarE1-F    | TGGTGAGAAGCGTCTTGTTG         |
| LviarE1-R    | ACTGTTGATGAAGGCCACCTTGAGC    |
| LviarXB1-F   | GTGGATCAGCAGTATCCAGACC       |
| LviarXB1-R   | TCCCAAGGCAGCTGTATTGA         |
| LviarCasp3-F | ACATTCTGGGCGGAAAACC          |
| LviarCasp3-R | GTGACACCCGTGTTGTACA          |
| LviarASK1-F  | GCTGTTGTAAGTCCGAGAGAAG      |
| LviarASK1-R  | AGCGAAGCAACAATCCATTGCATCG    |
| LviarActin-F | GACTACCTGATGAGATTC           |
| LviarActin-R | TCGTGCCGATGGTGATCA           |

The hepatopancreas (40–50 mg) was then immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen for real-time quantitative PCR and stored at −80 °C.
RESULTS

Plasma analysis

The plasma of *L. vannamei* was measured at 28, 23, 18, 13, and 13 °C for 12 h, respectively. Changes in Glu content were not obvious during the cooling process (Fig. 1A). The concentrations of TC and TG increased after cooling and reached their peak at 23 °C. TC then returned to a normal level at 28 °C while TG significantly decreased at 13 °C for 12 h (Fig. 1B). The concentrations of TP remained stable from 28 °C to 13 °C and significantly decreased at 13 °C for 12 h (Fig. 1C). ALT activities in the plasma increased significantly after acute cold-stress. They reached their peak at 13 °C for 12 h, which was more than 26 times higher than that at 28 °C. However, ALP levels had the opposite reactions (Fig. 1D).

Hepatopancreas histological analysis

According to the results of hepatopancreas HE staining, the hepatocytes were arranged closely together with a clear cell gap at 28 °C. The boundaries of the hepatic tubules were...
blurred and the arrangement of hepatic cells became disordered with a decrease in temperature. At 13 °C for 12 h, most of the hepatic tubules were necrotic and the basement membranes were ruptured. Intact structures of the hepatic tubules were hardly observed (Fig. 2).

**Gene expression in hepatopancreas during acute cold-stress**

In the hepatopancreas, the relative mRNA expression of GRP78 increased significantly at 23 °C, which was about twofolds at 28 °C, and then significantly decreased at 18 °C.
In UPR, the expression of \textit{ATF6} increased significantly with temperature changes from 28 to 23 °C, and then decreased gradually (Fig. 3C). In the \textit{IRE1} pathway, there was no significant difference among the expression of \textit{IRE1} at different temperatures, while the expression of \textit{XBP1} significantly increased after acute cold-stress and its expression at 13 °C for 12 h was more than twofolds higher than that at 28 °C (Fig. 3D). In the \textit{PERK} pathway, the expression of \textit{PERK} decreased significantly at 23 °C, remained stable from 23 to 13 °C, and then significantly increased at 13 °C for 12 h. The expression of \textit{eIF2a} and \textit{ATF4} increased gradually. \textit{PERK}, \textit{eIF2a}, and \textit{ATF4} appeared to be highly expressed at 13 °C for 12 h (1.28-, 1.47-, and 1.60-folds compared with that at 28 °C, respectively) (Fig. 3D). For genes related to apoptosis, the expression of \textit{CASP3} increased significantly after acute cold-stress and remained at a stable level, which ranged from 1.58- to 1.79-folds higher than that at 28 °C, while the expression of \textit{ASK1} significantly decreased after 13 °C and reached a minimum level at 13 °C for 12 h (Fig. 2B).
Gene expression in hemocytes during acute cold-stress

In the hemocytes, the expression of GRP78 decreased significantly after acute cold-stress and then increased remarkably at 18 °C, which was more than twofolds higher than that at 23 °C (Fig. 4A). In UPR, the expression of ATF6 showed the same trend as that of GRP78 (Fig. 4C). In the IRE1 pathway, the expression of IRE1 and XBP1 remained stable from 28 to 13 °C, and then significantly increased at 13 °C for 12 h (2.60- and 2.21-folds compared with those at 28 °C, respectively) (Fig. 4D). In the PERK pathway, the trends were the same as those in the hepatopancreas (Fig. 4E). For genes related to apoptosis, the expression of CASP3 decreased at 23 °C and then increased above 13 °C. The expression of CASP3 at 13 °C and 13 °C for 12 h were 1.14- and 1.06-folds compared with that at 28 °C, respectively and there were no significant differences among these at the three treatment point. The expression of ASK1 significantly decreased after acute cold-stress and remained at a stable level, which ranged from 0.56- to 0.65-folds at 28 °C (Fig. 4B).
DISCUSSION

Litopenaeus vannamei is one of the most important aquaculture shrimps in the world. It is a warm-water shrimp that is sensitive to cold environments, therefore, low temperatures present a serious challenge to its survival, growth, and distribution (Peng et al., 2016; Cottin et al., 2016). In this study, the plasma metabolite concentrations, histological changes, and relative gene expression in the UPR signaling pathway and apoptosis genes induced by ERS in L. vannamei during acute cold-stress were investigated.

It has been well accepted that protein acts as the main energy source for shrimp (New, 1976; Zhang et al., 2006; Cuzon et al., 2010). And lipid was the main energy source of tilapia fish during long-time hypoxia stress (Li et al., 2018). In previous studies, the digestion and absorption of fat, and the protein pathways were significantly enhanced after cold adaptation by L. vannamei (He et al., 2018). In the current study, the results revealed that under low temperature stress, lipids (TG and TC, the major components of lipids) and proteins (TP) in the plasma significantly increased after acute cold-stress at 23 °C, while Glu did not change significantly. Thus, we speculated that protein and lipids are the main energy sources for L. vannamei during acute cold-stress.

It has been reported that the hepatopancreas was the main site for gluconeogenesis in decapod crustaceans (Reyes-Ramos et al., 2018; Berry et al., 2019). In this study, the results of HE staining revealed obvious damage to the hepatopancreas structure at 18 °C. Thus, combined with the hepatopancreas histology and plasma results, we speculated that the hepatopancreas facilitates gluconeogenesis to synthesize Glu from proteins and lipids, by which the shrimp are able to maintain their Glu demand under acute cold-stress. However, after the temperature dropped to 18 °C, the rupture of the hepatopancreas tubule resulted in the decrease of lipid and protein concentrations in the plasma. The regulation of energy metabolism after cold-stress in L. vannamei will require future study.

The present study has shown that ALP played a major role during the acute cold stress response in Sparus aurata and L. vannamei, this was probably because ALP may help protect the hepatopancreas and hemolymph from cold-stress damage (Mateus et al., 2017; Peng et al., 2018). The activity of ALT in plasma can reflect damage to the hepatopancreas. It has been shown that various forms of stress can cause an increase in plasma ALT activities in fish (Cho et al., 1994) and it is responsive to temperature change in fish (Costas et al., 2012). Environmental changes (e.g., cold shock and pH stress) have also been shown to cause damage to hepatopancreas cells, causing distension of the mitochondrial membrane, reduction or change of the hepatopancreas cells, and so on (Walker, Golden & Horst, 2010; Tao et al., 2016; Xu et al., 2018). In the present study, the ALP activity decreased to its lowest level and the ALT activity increased to its highest level at 13 °C for 12 h. The intact structure of the hepatic tubules can hardly be observed at these temperatures. Thus, combined with the histological and plasma results, we speculated that acute cold-stress could cause serious damage to the hepatopancreas of L. vannamei and therefore reduce their immunity.

Unfolded protein response restores the ER homeostasis by activating the ATF6, IRE1, and PERK pathways with GRP78 being the key mechanism. Appropriate ERS can activate
UPR to restore ER homeostasis and protect cells, however, if this imbalance exceeds its regulating ability, it will lead to apoptosis. In invertebrates, apoptosis is also an efficient defense system against stimuli harmful to organisms. Environmental stresses such as temperature stimulation, pH changes, and toxic substances can induce the apoptosis of shrimp cells and lead to cell death. In this study, the relative mRNA expression of GRP78 in the hepatopancreas and hemocytes were significantly altered after acute cold-stress, which indicated that UPR was involved in this process. In previous studies, the differential expression of UPR and the apoptosis-related genes of the Pacific oyster were significantly enhanced in response to stress related to temperature change (Yang et al., 2017). In rainbow trout (Huang et al., 2018), protein processing in the ER pathway and lipid metabolism pathways were also involved in the heat stress response. The plasma and gene expression results in our study were consistent with these previous studies.

Moreover, in this study, the expression change trend of ATF6 in the hepatopancreas and hemocytes were similar to that of GRP78. While the expression changes of IRE1 and the PERK pathway related genes in the hepatopancreas and hemocytes were different from GRP78. Previous studies showed that ATF6 was the first sensor to respond to UPR. But for IRE1 and PERK, GRP78 was a modulatory element, rather than a switch (Pincus et al., 2010; Gardner et al., 2013; Lewy, Grabowski & Bloom, 2017). These results was consistent with previous studies.

In addition, we found that the expression of some genes (GRP78, ATF6, and CASP3) significantly increased after acute cold-stress in the hepatopancreas, while in hemocytes the expression of these genes decreased significantly at 23 °C. This may be related to the damage of the hepatopancreas which is the hematopoietic organ of shrimp. Combined with plasma, histological, and apoptotic gene expression results, we found that the hepatopancreas was damaged after acute cold-stress, which resulted in the injury of hematopoietic function. Therefore, the number of hemocytes in the hemolymph of equal volume may be reduced (we extracted an equal volume of hemolymph at each time point). Thus, the expression of genes in the hemocyte may decrease. Previous study has also shown that the total hemocyte count decreased when L. vannamei was exposed to low water temperature (Fan, Wang & Wu, 2013). However, the specific mechanisms involved remain to be explored.

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, L. vannamei may resist cold stress by utilizing proteins and lipids. Acute cold-stress causes damage to the hepatopancreas and reduces its immunity. All three UPR pathways are involved in the process of acute cold-stress. Moreover, compared with IRE1 and the PERK pathway, ATF6 was the first sensor to respond to UPR after acute cold-stress. Further research will focus on the significant changes in gene expression and their roles during cold stress.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank our reviewers and the editor of PeerJ for their comments, which have improved the manuscript tremendously.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DECLARATIONS

Funding
This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 31600322) and the Science and Technology Planning Project of Qingyuan city (No. 2015A008). The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

Grant Disclosures
The following grant information was disclosed by the authors:
National Natural Science Foundation of China: 31600322.
Science and Technology Planning Project of Qingyuan city: 2015A008.

Competing Interests
The authors declare there are no competing interests.

Author Contributions
- Zhenlu Wang conceived and designed the experiments, performed the experiments, analyzed the data, prepared figures and/or tables, authored or reviewed drafts of the paper.
- Yuexin Qu performed the experiments.
- Xiaolei Zhuo contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools.
- Junyi Li performed the experiments.
- Jixing Zou contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools.
- Lanfen Fan conceived and designed the experiments, analyzed the data, contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools, authored or reviewed drafts of the paper, approved the final draft.

Data Availability
The following information was supplied regarding data availability:
The raw measurements are available in Table S1, Table S2, and Table S3. The raw data were used for statistical analysis about changes of plasma metabolites concentrations and relative mRNA expression during acute cold-stress.

Supplemental Information
Supplemental information for this article can be found online at http://dx.doi.org/10.7717/peerj.7381#supplemental-information.

REFERENCES
Berry SE, Simon CJ, Foote AR, Jerry DR, Wade NM. 2019. Evaluation of baseline haemolymph biochemistry, volume and total body energetics to determine an accurate condition index in the black tiger shrimp, Penaeus monodon. Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology Part B: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology 228:1–9 DOI 10.1016/j.cbpb.2018.10.003.
Chakrabarti A, Chen AW, Varner JD. 2011. A review of the mammalian unfolded protein response. *Biotechnology & Bioengineering* **108**(12):2777–2793 DOI 10.1002/bit.23282.

Chen Y-H, He J-G. 2019. Effects of environmental stress on shrimp innate immunity and white spot syndrome virus infection. *Fish & Shellfish Immunology* **84**:744–755 DOI 10.1016/j.fsi.2018.10.069.

Chen Y-H, Zhao L, Pang L-R, Li X-Y, Weng S-P, He J-G. 2012. Identification and characterization of Inositol-requiring enzyme-1 and X-box binding protein 1, two proteins involved in the unfolded protein response of *Litopenaeus vannamei*. *Developmental & Comparative Immunology* **38**(1):66–77 DOI 10.1016/j.dci.2012.04.005.

Cho CY, Hynes JD, Wood KR, Yoshida HK. 1994. Development of high-nutrient-dense, low-pollution diets and prediction of aquaculture wastes using biological approaches. *Aquaculture* **124**(1–4):293–305 DOI 10.1016/0044-8486(94)90403-0.

Costa CZF, Rosa SEAD, De Camargo MM. 2011. The unfolded protein response: how protein folding became a restrictive aspect for innate immunity and B Lymphocytes 1. *Scandinavian Journal of Immunology* **73**(5):436–448 DOI 10.1111/j.1365-3083.2010.02504.x.

Costas B, Ruiz-Jarabo I, Vargas-Chacoff L, Arjona FJ, Mancera JM, Dinis MT, Conceição LEC. 2012. Different environmental temperatures affect amino acid metabolism in the eurytherm teleost Senegalese sole (*Solea senegalensis* Kaup, 1858) as indicated by changes in plasma metabolites. *Amino Acids* **43**(1):327–335 DOI 10.1007/s00726-011-1082-0.

Cottin D, Shillito B, Chertemps T, Tanguy A, Léger N, Ravaux J. 2016. Identification of differentially expressed genes in the hydrothermal vent shrimp *Rimicaris exoculata* exposed to heat stress. *Marine Genomics* **3**(2):71–78 DOI 10.1016/j.margen.2010.05.002.

Cuzon G, Cahu C, Aldrin JF, Messager JL, Stephan G, Mevel M. 2010. Starvation effect on metabolism of *Penaeus japonicus*. *Journal of the World Aquaculture Society* **11**(1–4):410–423 DOI 10.1111/j.1749-7345.1980.tb00135.x.

Dejean LM, Martinez-caballero S, Kinnally KW. 2006. Is MAC the knife that cuts cytochrome c from mitochondria during apoptosis? *Cell Death & Differentiation* **13**(8):1387–1395 DOI 10.1038/sj.cdd.4401949.

Fan L, Wang A, Miao Y, Liao S, Ye C, Lin Q. 2016. Comparative proteomic identification of the hepatopancreas response to cold stress in white shrimp, *Litopenaeus vannamei*. *Aquaculture* **454**:27–34 DOI 10.1016/j.aquaculture.2015.10.016.

Fan L, Wang A, Wu Y. 2013. Comparative proteomic identification of the hemocyte response to cold stress in white shrimp, *Litopenaeus vannamei*. *Journal of Proteomics* **80**:196–206 DOI 10.1016/j.jprot.2012.12.017.

Gardner BM, Pincus D, Gotthardt K, Gallagher CM, Walter P. 2013. Endoplasmic reticulum stress sensing in the unfolded protein response. *Cold Spring Harbor Perspectives in Biology* **5**(3):a013169 DOI 10.1101/cshperspect.a013169.

Harding HP, Novoa I, Zhang Y, Zeng H, Wek R, Schapira M, Ron D. 2000. Regulated translation initiation controls stress-induced gene expression in mammalian cells. *Molecular Cell* **6**(5):1099–1108 DOI 10.1016/S1097-2765(00)00108-8.

He P, Wei P, Zhang B, Zhao Y, Li Q, Chen X, Zeng D, Peng M, Yang C, Peng J, Chen X. 2018. Identification of microRNAs involved in cold adaptation of *Litopenaeus vannamei* by high-throughput sequencing. *Gene* **677**:24–31 DOI 10.1016/j.gene.2018.07.042.

Huang J, Li Y, Ma F, Kang Y, Liu Z, Wang J. 2018. Identification and characterization of microRNAs in the liver of rainbow trout in response to heat stress by high-throughput sequencing. *Gene* **679**:274–281 DOI 10.1016/j.gene.2018.09.012.
Huang W, Ren C, Li H, Huo D, Wang Y, Jiang X, Tian Y, Luo P, Chen T, Hu C. 2017. Transcriptomic analyses on muscle tissues of *Litopenaeus vannamei* provide the first profile insight into the response to low temperature stress. *PLOS ONE* **12**(6):e178604 DOI 10.1371/journal.pone.0178604.

Kebache S, Cardin E, Nguyên DT, Chevet E, Larose L. 2004. Nck-1 antagonizes the endoplasmic reticulum stress-induced inhibition of translation. *Journal of Biological Chemistry* **279**(10):9662–9671 DOI 10.1074/jbc.M310535200.

Lewy TG, Grabowski JM, Bloom ME. 2017. BiP: master regulator of the unfolded protein response and crucial factor in flavivirus biology. *Yale Journal of Biology & Medicine* **90**:291–300.

Li M, Wang X, Qi C, Li E, Du Z, Qin JG, Chen L. 2018. Metabolic response of Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) to acute and chronic hypoxia stress. *Aquaculture* **495**:187–195 DOI 10.1016/j.aquaculture.2018.05.031.

Li M, Baumeister P, Roy B, Phan T, Foti D, Luo S, Lee AS. 2000. ATF6 as a transcription activator of the endoplasmic reticulum stress element: thapsigargin stress-induced changes and synergistic interactions with NF-Y and YY1. *Molecular and Cellular Biology* **20**(14):5096–5106 DOI 10.1128/MCB.20.14.5096-5106.2000.

Mateus AP, Costa R, Gisbert E, Pis P, Andree KB, Estévez A, Power DM. 2017. Thermal imprinting modifies bone homeostasis in cold-challenged sea bream (*Sparus aurata*). *Journal of Experimental Biology* **220**(19):3442–3454 DOI 10.1242/jeb.156174.

Nyblom H, Berggren U, Balldin J, Olsson R. 2004. High AST/ALT ratio may indicate advanced alcoholic liver disease rather than heavy drinking. *Alcohol and Alcoholism* **39**(4):336–339 DOI 10.1093/alcalc/agh074.

New MB. 1976. A review of dietary studies with shrimp and prawns. *Aquaculture* **9**:101–144 DOI 10.1016/0044-8486(76)90055-7.

Nyblom H, Berggren U, Balldin J, Olsson R. 2004. High AST/ALT ratio may indicate advanced alcoholic liver disease rather than heavy drinking. *Alcohol and Alcoholism* **39**(4):336–339 DOI 10.1093/alcalc/agh074.

Peng J-X, He P-P, Wei P-Y, Zhang B, Zhao Y-Z, Li Q-Y, Chen X-L, Peng M, Zeng D-G, Yang C-L, Chen X. 2018. Proteomic responses under cold stress reveal unique cold tolerance mechanisms in the pacific white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*). *Frontiers in Physiology* **9**:1399 DOI 10.3389/physiol.2018.01399.

Peng J, Wei P, Chen X, Zeng D, Chen X. 2016. Identification of cold responsive genes in Pacific white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) by suppression subtractive hybridization. *Gene* **575**(2):667–674 DOI 10.1016/j.gene.2015.09.045.

Pincus D, Chevalier MW, Aragón T, Anken EV, Vidal SE, Elsamad H, Walter P. 2010. BiP Binding to the ER-stress sensor ire1 tunes the homeostatic behavior of the unfolded protein response. *PLOS Biology* **8**(7):e1000415 DOI 10.1371/journal.pbio.1000415.
Reyes-Ramos CA, Peregrino-Uriarte AB, Cota-Ruiz K, Valenzuela-Soto EM, Leyva-Carrillo L, Yepiz-Plascencia G. 2018. Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase cytosolic and mitochondrial isoforms are expressed and active during hypoxia in the white shrimp Litopenaeus vannamei. Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology Part B: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology 226:1–9 DOI 10.1016/j.cbpb.2018.08.001.

Sidrauski C, Walter P. 1997. The transmembrane kinase Ire1p is a site-specific endonuclease that initiates mRNA splicing in the unfolded protein response. Cell 90(6):1031–1039 DOI 10.1016/S0092-8674(00)80369-4.

Sun S, Shi G, Sha H, Inoue T, Gao B, Kim H, Bu P, Guber RD, Shen X, Lee AH, Iwawaki T, Paton AW, Paton JC, Fang D, Tsai B, Yates JR 3rd, Wu H, Kersten S, Long Q, Duhamel GE, Simpson KW, Qi L. 2015. IRE1α is an endogenous substrate of endoplasmic-reticulum-associated degradation. Nature Cell Biology 17(12):1546–1555 DOI 10.1038/ncb3266.

Tao Y, Qiang J, Hui W, Pao XU, Xinyu MA, Zhao W, University NA. 2016. Acute toxicity of low-pH stress and its effect on enzyme activity and histological structure of gill and hepatopancreas in Procambarus clarkii. Journal of Fisheries of China 23:1279–1289.

Tobiume K, Matsuzawa A, Takahashi T, Nishitoh H, Morita K-I, Takeda K, Minowa O, Miyazono K, Noda T, Ichijo H. 2001. ASK1 is required for sustained activations of JNK/p38 MAP kinases and apoptosis. EMBO Reports 2(3):222–228 DOI 10.1093/embo-reports/kve046.

Walker AN, Golden R, Horst MN. 2010. Morphologic effects of in vivo acute exposure to the pesticide methoprene on the hepatopancreas of a non-target organism, Homarus americanus. Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety 73(8):1867–1874 DOI 10.1016/j.ecoenv.2010.08.013.

Wang P-H, Wan D-H, Chen Y-G, Weng S-P, Yu X-Q, He J-G. 2013. Characterization of four novel caspases from Litopenaeus vannamei (Lvcaspase2-5) and their role in WSSV infection through dsRNA-mediated gene silencing. PLOS ONE 8(12):e80418 DOI 10.1371/journal.pone.0080418.

Wang Q, Liu Y, Zheng Z, Deng Y, Jiao Y, Du X. 2018. Adaptive response of pearl oyster Pinctada fucata martensii to low water temperature stress. Fish & Shellfish Immunology 78:310–315 DOI 10.1016/j.fsi.2018.04.049.

Xu J, Ruan L, Shi H. 2014. eIF2α of Litopenaeus vannamei involved in shrimp immune response to WSSV infection. Fish & Shellfish Immunology 40(2):609–615 DOI 10.1016/j.fsi.2014.08.016.

Yan J, Chen S, Chang Q, Wang Z, Bin LU, Liu C, Jiancheng HU. 2016. Effects of antarctic krill meal replacing fish meal on growth performance, serum and liver biochemical indices and serum non-specific immune indices of juvenile spotted halibut (Verasper variegatus). Chinese Journal of Animal Nutrition 28:3503–3510.

Yang C, Gao Q, Liu C, Wang L, Zhou Z, Gong C, Zhang A, Zhang H, Qiu L, Song L. 2017. The transcriptional response of the Pacific oyster Crassostrea gigas against acute heat stress. Fish & Shellfish Immunology 68:132–143 DOI 10.1016/j.fsi.2017.07.016.

Yuan F-H, Chen Y-G, Zhang Z-Z, Yue H-T, Bi H-T, Yuan K, Weng S-P, He J-G, Chen Y-H. 2016. Down-regulation apoptosis signal-regulating kinase 1 gene reduced the Litopenaeus vannamei hemocyte apoptosis in WSSV infection. Fish & Shellfish Immunology 50:109–116 DOI 10.1016/j.fsi.2015.12.003.
Yuan K, He H-H, Zhang C-Z, Li X-Y, Weng S-P, He J-G, Chen Y-H. 2017. *Litopenaeus vannamei* activating transcription factor 6 alpha gene involvement in ER-stress response and white spot symptom virus infection. *Fish & Shellfish Immunology* 70:129–139 DOI 10.1016/j.fsi.2017.09.013.

Zhang P, Zhang X, Li J, Huang G. 2006. Swimming ability and physiological response to swimming fatigue in whiteleg shrimp, *Litopenaeus vannamei*. *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology Part A: Molecular & Integrative Physiology* 145(1):26–32 DOI 10.1016/j.cbpa.2006.04.014.

Zhao Q, Pan L, Ren Q, Wang L, Miao J. 2016. Effect of salinity on regulation mechanism of neuroendocrine-immunoregulatory network in *Litopenaeus vannamei*. *Fish & Shellfish Immunology* 49:396–406 DOI 10.1016/j.fsi.2015.12.045.