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Anti-predator response of *Haliotis tuberculata* is modified after only one generation of domestication

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ABSTRACT: Domestication of *Haliotis tuberculata* has only recently begun. During the process, we expect that behavioural and physiological traits may evolve to become more adapted to their captive environment. These modifications may result from intentional selection of production traits or unconscious and unintentional selection due to conditions experienced in the farm environment. To study this process at the earliest stage, the progeny of 3 different broodstocks obtained from wild parents, selected farmed abalone and randomly sampled farmed abalone, were studied. After rearing for 16 mo in separate tanks, offspring from the 3 progenies were placed together in sea cages at the same density. After 3 yr, behavioural traits were studied, and the immune status after a stress situation was assessed. Mortality and growth were also recorded. In spite of the fact that no significant differences were observed in survival, growth or immune status traits between the 3 progenies, less progeny from the selected broodstock performed the complete sequence of anti-predation behaviour, and they took more time to reach their hides compared to the wild progeny. In addition, the shell colours of the selected progeny were more orange and had more stripes compared to the brown-green colour of the wild progeny. Progeny of randomly sampled broodstock showed intermediate responses between those of wild and selected progeny. Our results suggest that associated behavioural trade-offs can take place after only one generation of selection to improve growth. This should be taken into consideration when using selected stocks for ranching or population enhancement programs.

KEY WORDS: Predation · Hiding behaviour · *Haliotis tuberculata* · Domestication · Selection · Captive · Abalone

1. INTRODUCTION

Aquaculture is now being applied to many marine species, and thus these species are being modified in the process of domestication, both intentionally and unintentionally. It is unclear how fast this process may be, but because most marine animals are broadcast spawners and produce very large numbers of

eggs, there is a great potential for rapid selection in such species. If animals from aquaculture are to be used for sea-ranching or to boost declining wild stocks, it is important to understand the modifications that may arise during the early stages of domestication.

Abalone are marine gastropods found on most of the continents, with more than 56 species described worldwide (Geiger 2000). These gastropods inhabit

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rocky habitats (Poore 1972, Shepherd 1973, Clavier & Chardy 1989). They live on rocks or coral, in narrow crevices or under boulders. Abalone show strong photonegative behaviour, with movement and feeding mainly observed during the night (Momma & Sato 1969). This pronounced behavioural rhythm has been interpreted as an efficient way to avoid predators (Shepherd 1973). Indeed, abalone have numerous predators such as sea otters (Hines & Pearse 1982), crabs, stingrays, fish (Shepherd 1973, Griffiths & Gosselin 2008) and starfish (Cox 1962, Day et al. 1995). Day et al. (1995) described escape responses exhibited by *Haliotis rubra* when attacked by starfish: extension of their tentacles to detect the predator is followed by retraction of the tentacles when contact is made with the starfish tube feet, then lifting of its shell followed by violent twists of the shell from one side to the other to break the starfish's grip, almost always followed by a 'running' response. In addition, abalone often eject mucus, which probably helps to mask the direction of escape and might have repellent properties (Day et al. 1995, Bancalà 2009).

Price (1984, p. 3) defined animal domestication as 'that process by which a population of animals becomes adapted to man and to the captive environment by some combination of genetic changes occurring over generations and environmentally induced developmental events reoccurring during each generation'. In fish, Teletchea & Fontaine (2014) defined it as the consistent control of reproduction over successive generations, involving maintaining and breeding fish in captivity, with broodstock management and rearing of the larvae and juveniles. Domesticated terrestrial animals are often characterized by a change in quantitative rather than qualitative behavioural responses (Price 1999); for example, domesticated animals show reduced sensitivity to changes in their environment, even if fear responses are still observed. The same process is described in marine animals (Huntingford & Adams 2005). Indeed, a shift is observed from resource conservation, foraging and predator avoidance functions (Thorpe 2004) toward resource allocation to growth and reproduction. Even though studies are rare, domestication has been shown to reduce physiological responses to stressors in domesticated mammals such as guinea pigs in comparison to wild cavy (Kunzl & Sachser 1999) and to improve chronic stress resistance as well as the immune status of Eurasian perch after 4 generations of reproduction in captivity (Douxflis et al. 2011). In molluscs, behavioural and physiological consequences are far less known, prob-

ably due to the limited behavioural repertoire of bivalves, the major cultivated species.

As for many species of abalone cultured around the world (Robinson et al. 2010, Rhode et al. 2012), domestication of the European species *H. tuberculata* started only recently. However, the effect of domestication on behaviour has rarely been studied (Robinson et al. 2013). A first series of experiments on this species showed that wild abalone spent about twice as much time moving during the day, took longer to right themselves after being turned upside down (Lachambre et al. 2017b) and responded more to touching the foot (Lachambre et al. 2017a) compared to farmed abalone. However, because wild and farmed abalone were not raised in the same conditions, it was not possible to differentiate developmental from genetic effects.

It is also important to study the unintended effects of selection for growth on other parameters. A negative change of untargeted traits in response to selection is described as a trade-off (Rauw et al. 1998).

Even if the relative contribution of genetic changes to the domestication process is often difficult to assess, comparing individuals from different origins subject to a common environment can provide clues about the effect of genetic-based differentiation (Conover 1998). Our experiment aimed to reveal the potential consequences of the first stages of domestication. Diurnal rhythm and responses to several challenging situations, such as predation and being turned upside down, were studied in offspring of 3 different origins, corresponding to 3 different levels of domestication (Teletchea & Fontaine 2014): offspring from wild broodstock (entire life in captivity, with wild parents), offspring from randomly sampled farmed broodstock (entire life in captivity, with cultured parents but no selective breeding program) and offspring from selected farmed broodstock (entire life in captivity, with cultured parents from a selective breeding program focusing on specific goals). These 3 progenies were raised in a similar environment and studied at 3 yr of age. This experiment allowed the evaluation of any trade-offs associated with unintentional selection due to farm conditions and due to selection for weight, the most frequent selection criterion used on farmed abalone. Because ranching programs and stock enhancement programs often use juveniles from farms, and possibly use broodstock that have been subject to selection, it is important to estimate the behavioural consequences of early stages of domestication on the behaviour of offspring and to consider the offspring's chance of survival in the wild.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Animals and rearing procedure

Abalone *Haliotis tuberculata* of 3 different origins were obtained for the study: wild abalone, randomly sampled farmed abalone and farmed abalone selected to improve growth (the heaviest 5% of the individuals from a cage containing 600 abalone). Farmed abalone broodstock were sampled from the France *Haliotis* stock (48° 36' 46" N, 4° 33' 30" W; Plouguerneau, France). The farm broodstock were all the same age and the 3rd generation bred on the farm. They were the result of systematic mating between wild and farmed broodstock (either males or females were wild broodstock) in each generation. This strategy aims to avoid inbreeding. In 4 sea cages of 600 abalone each, the heaviest 15 males and 15 females cage⁻¹ were selected and the same number of abalone were randomly sampled from the sea cage for the randomly sampled broodstock. The wild broodstock consisted of 40 males and 40 females collected from coastal areas of northern Brittany by professional divers.

Abalone were kept in 15 l conditioning buckets, with 4 to 8 abalone from the same treatment in a bucket, for approximately 5 mo. Maturity of the broodstock was checked during routine hatchery operations before the induction of reproduction. All abalone were regarded as suitable for reproduction. An average of 90% of males and females in each group spawned after induction using a temperature shock of +4°C and UV-irradiated seawater. During spawning, females of each origin were grouped in one container while males were separated into individual containers. Within 2 h of spawning, pooled oocytes were subdivided according to the number of males having spawned and fertilized with the sperm of each male diluted to a target concentration of 10 spermatozoa egg⁻¹. The success rates of fertilisation and hatching were estimated to be 80%. Following 5 d of rearing through incubation, hatching and the various larval stages, 200 000 larvae from each treatment were allowed to settle in each nursery tank (1.4 × 0.25 × 0.6 m) containing 120 plastic plates (0.6 × 0.3 m) covered with *Ulvelia lens* (Daume et al. 2004). In total, this spawning procedure was repeated 4 times between July and September 2014 (17, 21, 28 July and 15 September) with different farmed and wild abalone each time.

After 10 mo, when the juveniles reached approximately 10 mm in mean shell length, they were anes-

thetized using 3.5% ethanol and the density was adjusted to 300 juveniles tank⁻¹. A 5% mortality rate was observed during this procedure. In November 2015, at the age of 16 mo, juveniles were transferred into sea cage structures. Each sea cage contained 75 abalone: 25 abalone from wild parents, 25 abalone from parents selected based on weight and 25 abalone whose parents were randomly selected, each sea cage corresponding to a spawning period. There were 3 cages (technical replicates or blocks) for each spawning period (n = 12 cages in total). Abalone from each treatment were individually marked with 2 coloured plastic tags (2 × 2 mm) fixed with cyanoacrylate glue. Due to high mortality during the winter rearing period, only 13 juveniles from the randomly selected broodstock were added per cage for the third spawning. Following a winter storm, one replicate cage from the first spawning was lost.

The commercial rearing procedure of the France *Haliotis* farm was applied to the abalone in the cages: fresh algae was added to each cage once per month, allowing ad libitum access to food until May 2017. The algae provided were mainly composed of *Palmaria palmata*, *Laminaria digitata* and *Saccharina latissima*, depending on the season.

2.2. Experimental procedure

When the abalone were 34 mo old, the sea cages were brought back to the laboratory facilities at the farm. The cages were placed in a tank (l × w × h: 6 × 1.4 × 0.6 m) next to the laboratory until further analysis. Abalone were out of the water for a maximum of 1 h during the transport from the sea cage concession area. Fresh, filtered seawater from the sea was then provided. Apart from the abalone used to record diurnal rhythm (see below), animals were left for 10 d in the tank before physiological and behavioural measurements were carried out. Special care was taken not to handle them in order to prevent any stress.

To evaluate the effect of domestication on behaviour and physiology, immune status measurements, righting, hiding and predator tests were performed. Diurnal rhythm was studied in aquaria after 1 mo of acclimation to the laboratory conditions. Growth and survival measurements were performed during the 3 yr rearing period. Abalone were tested only once and marked at the end of each test so that they were not used twice before they were replaced in the cage.

2.3. Behavioural measurements

2.3.1. Diurnal rhythm and feed intake

To study the circadian rhythm, 33 glass aquaria ($w \times l \times h$: $20 \times 35 \times 20$ cm) were used containing 12 l of seawater. In addition, 3 supplementary aquaria without abalone were used to control for algal degradation. The 2 extremities of these aquaria were devoted to shelter or feeding: shelter was provided in the form of a baked clay shelter ($w \times l \times h$: $6 \times 20 \times 6$ cm), while a baked clay ring was used to hold the alga *P. palmata* in the feeding area. The quantity of algae was adjusted to ensure ad libitum feeding (at least 1/3 of the initial quantity was remaining at the end of each period). Each tank received 20 l h^{-1} of $3 \mu\text{m}$ mechanically filtered seawater at a temperature of $15 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$. The 14:10 h photoperiod was adjusted to the seasonal rhythm (light: 06:30 to 20:30 h). To avoid stressful conditions during light changes, the light was adjusted slowly for 30 min during dawn (06:00 to 6:30 h) and dusk (20:30 to 21:00 h) using a dimmer (Gold Star, Besser Elektronik). Tanks were cleaned twice a week using a siphoning hose and the water filters were changed every day. All tanks were continuously videotaped using 3 digital cameras (TS-WD6001HPSC, Sygonix) linked to a 24 h recording device (TVVR 40021, Abus). All behavioural analyses were performed using the Observer program (Observer[®]XT, Noldus).

Just after transport from the sea, 3 abalone from each treatment were randomly sampled from each cage and placed in 11 aquaria (1 aquarium cage⁻¹, $n = 33$ abalone in total treatment⁻¹). They were gently detached, measured and weighed. A phosphorescent tag was glued to the shell with cyanoacrylate gel to record their night-time behaviour. Previous observations have shown that the stress of detachment and tagging has almost no effect on immune status after 1 d (Hooper et al. 2011) and on diurnal rhythm after 8 d (data not shown). After 1 mo of acclimation, the diurnal rhythm was video-recorded over 48 h, allowing measurements during both day and night. The videos were analysed at 16 times normal speed and slowed to 4 times when necessary. To avoid bias during video analysis, aquaria were not identified in terms of treatments. Individual behaviour was followed using the individual shell tags. The percentage of time spent hiding (under the baked clay hiding place), moving in the open zone, immobile in the open zone and eating the algae (less than 2 cm from the algae with small movements of the algae observed) were calculated for each aquarium by

averaging the behaviour of the 3 individuals during the 2 d of observations.

Feed intake was measured during the 1 mo acclimation period. Fresh *P. palmata* was placed in the aquarium every 3–4 d. Fresh and remaining algae were dried with absorbent paper and weighed each time. The ingested quantity of algae was calculated in g g^{-1} of wet abalone, taking into account changes in algal mass in the 3 supplementary aquaria.

2.3.2. Predator, hiding and righting tests

For the righting and hiding tests, glass aquaria ($w \times l \times h$: $20 \times 35 \times 20$ cm) filled with 5 l of seawater were used, equipped with a baked clay shelter for the hiding test and nothing for the righting test. For the predator test a plastic tank ($l \times w \times h$: $0.4 \times 2.5 \times 0.15$ m) filled with 50 l of seawater was used, with a 10×10 cm square grid printed on the bottom and on the side of the tank. The aquaria and tanks were cleaned at least 3 times, and seawater at the same temperature as the rearing tank was replaced between the tests for each individual abalone in order to remove any alarm cues possibly associated with abalone mucus (Bancalà 2009). These tests were performed during the daytime.

For each test, an abalone was randomly selected from a cage, gently detached and immediately placed in the experimental aquarium or tank. For each test, $n = 1$ or 2 abalone per treatment and per sea cage were used ($n = 19$ abalone minimum in total treatment⁻¹). Abalone were replaced in their cage only when all the abalone from the same cage had been tested to eliminate any effect of stress chemical cues on other tested individuals.

2.3.3. Righting test

Individual abalone were placed on their back in the centre of the aquarium. The time to right themselves was measured from the time the abalone were placed in the aquarium until they had fully turned over. The number of attempts to turn over (defined as the number of times the abalone placed its foot on the bottom and contracted its muscle) was also recorded.

2.3.4. Hiding test

An individual abalone was placed on its foot at one side of the aquarium. The time it took to make its first

movement, the time for it to reach the hiding place and the time before it was completely hidden were recorded, with a maximum time of 15 min if an abalone did not move into the shelter.

2.3.5. Predator test

An abalone was placed in the centre of the 150 l tank. When the abalone had a semi-relaxed or relaxed foot attached to the bottom of the tank, usually between 30 and 60 s afterwards, a starfish (*Marthasterias glacialis*, 20 cm width) was held in contact with the abalone's foot for 10 s. While the starfish touched the abalone, any protective swivelling movement of the abalone shell was recorded as well as any mucus release, any turn-around behaviour and any movement directly away from the starfish. The number of abalone that performed these 4 escape behaviours was recorded. The time until the first movement was measured. In addition, after the abalone began escaping, the time spent moving, the number of squares crossed and the number of mucus releases were recorded during the 5 min period of the test. The *M. glacialis* were collected on the outside of abalone sea cages, placed in a 30 l aquarium and fed with dead, non-experimental abalone twice wk^{-1} during the 2 wk experimental period. The starfish were released in the area where they were collected at the end of the experiment.

2.4. Immune function measurements after stress

The immune status of abalone, especially after a farm stress event such as grading, which involves shaking (Lachambre et al. 2017a), can be evaluated using the density of haemocytes in circulation as well as their phagocytosis activity (Hooper et al. 2011). Abalone were subjected to stress by 20 min of shaking in air with an oyster farm spat screener (3 jolts s^{-1} of 3 cm height) and a further 40 min of exposure to air. This procedure is a common stressor experienced by abalone during the screening process on abalone farms. Phagocytosis efficiency and total haemocyte count (THC) were measured 1 h after the beginning of the stress period. A total of 2 abalone treatment^{-1} and cage^{-1} were used ($n = 22$ in total treatment^{-1}). Haemolymph was collected from the pedal sinus in less than 1 min, by an experienced experimenter using a refrigerated 2 ml syringe and 25 G \times 5/8 needles. The haemolymph was transferred into a vial on ice. Samples were treated just after collection to

avoid aggregation. To measure phagocytosis efficiency, a protocol adapted from Travers et al. (2008) was followed using 2 replicates of 25 μl of haemolymph. Procedures described in Lachambre et al. (2017b) were applied with the following modifications: analyses were performed on a FACSVerse flow cytometer (Becton Dickinson) equipped with 3 lasers (405, 488 and 640 nm), a universal loader and a flow sensor to estimate the sample volume analysed. The immunological parameters were calculated using BD FACSuite software v.1.0.6. Phagocytosis efficiency was defined as the percentage of haemocytes that had engulfed 3 or more beads. The number of beads engulfed per active cell was also calculated. For the THC samples, 2 replicates of 25 μl of haemolymph were immediately added to 3.4% formalin (175 μl) in a 96 well plate and kept at 4°C before analysis. The fluid was diluted and incubated for 30 min in dark conditions with SYBR green fluorescent dye (4 μl , Molecular Probes; 10^{-3} dilution of the commercial stock solution) before flow cytometry. Results were expressed as number of cells μl^{-1} . Abalone were returned to the commercial sea cages on the farm after sampling.

2.5. Growth, survival and reproduction

2.5.1. Size and weight at 10 and 16 months

Maximum shell length was measured to the nearest mm using Vernier callipers and weights were recorded to the nearest 0.01 g at 10 mo for 75 abalone tank^{-1} ($n = 300$ abalone treatment^{-1}). The measured abalone were removed from the experiment in order to avoid any stress effect on growth. This procedure was performed again at 16 mo of age when transferring the animals into the sea cage ($n = 264$ min. treatment^{-1} , $n = 864$ in total).

2.5.2. Size, weight and survival at 34 mo of age

Survival at sea was obtained from the numbers of remaining live abalone in each treatment at 34 mo versus their numbers at 16 mo of age. Length and total weight of all these abalone were measured at 34 mo of age ($n = 63$ abalone min. treatment^{-1} , $n = 231$ in total). Randomly sampled abalone were dissected in June 2017, corresponding to the period of reproduction for the species in this area ($n =$ at least 3 abalone treatment^{-1} and cage^{-1} , $n =$ minimum 42 abalone treatment^{-1} , $n = 148$ in total). The weights

of the muscle tissue (comprising the epipodium, the foot muscle and the adductor muscle), gonad (in the conical organ and part of the spire, separating it from the digestive gland with a scalpel), digestive system (comprising the stomach and crop but not the oesophagus and intestine) and shell were recorded. Indices were calculated by expressing these weights as a percentage of the wet body weight.

2.6. Shell colour and pattern

Shell colour and pattern of a sample of the abalone at 34 mo ($n = 148$ in total) were assessed visually by a trained experimenter (Fig. 1). The lighter colour of the juvenile part of the shell was not included in this assessment. Shell colour was classified into 2 categories (Liu et al. 2009): a green shade category comprising shells ranging from dark brown to green, and an orange category comprising shells with an orange to red colour. There were 3 categories of shell pattern: homogenous colour, a discolouration in one part of the shell (less than 1/3 of the shell) and stripes on at least 1/3 of the surface of the shell (Fig. 1).

2.7. Statistical analysis

The behavioural, physiological, survival and growth variables measured at 3 yr of age were analysed by a linear mixed effects analysis using the 'lmerTest' package (Bates et al. 2012) in R and using the methodology described by Winter (2013). Differences of least squares means and the Satterthwaite's approximation to df were calculated using the 'difflmeans' function. The model included the factors treatment (wild, selected or randomly selected) and spawning (1 to 4) as fixed effects and cage (1 to 11) as a random factor. For the growth data in the nursery, the model included the treatment (wild, selected or

randomly selected) and spawning (1 to 4) as fixed effects, and tank (1 to 12) as a random factor. Because the spawning effect was never significant, it is not presented in the results. Because the df were not indicated in the R mixed model analysis, these were calculated as follows: $df_{\text{numerator}} = k - 1$, with k being the number of different treatment groups ($k = 3$ for origins) plus 1 df for the random factor (cages/tanks), $df_{\text{denominator}} = n - k$ with n as the total df of the data and k the total of the df of the fixed and random effects (for example, for data at 3 yr of age: 11 cages - 1, 3 origins - 1, and 4 spawning periods - 1; $k = 15$).

When assumptions of homogeneity of variance and normal distribution of the residuals were not verified, a $\log(x + 1)$, $\text{inverse}(x)$, or square root transformation was used before carrying out the analysis. If the normal distribution of the residuals was not satisfied by the transformed data but the variance was homogenous, a Kruskal-Wallis test was performed. If the homogeneity of variance was not verified, a Welch test was performed, as recommended by Day & Quinn (1989). If a treatment effect was observed, a Mann-Whitney test was performed for post hoc analysis. A chi-squared test was used for the analysis of frequency data. All data are presented as least square means (lsmean) \pm SE, unless otherwise stated.

3. RESULTS

3.1. Behavioural traits

3.1.1. Circadian and feed intake

No significant effects of broodstock origin on diurnal rhythm during the night and day periods were observed (Table 1), nor for the quantity of algae ingested per gram of abalone during the 1 mo of the experiment ($F_{3,14} = 1.48$, $p = 0.251$) (Table 1).



Fig. 1. Shell patterns of abalone with (A) homogenous colour, (B) discolouration in one part of the shell and (C) stripes on at least one-third of the shell

Table 1. Diurnal rhythm of abalone *Haliotis tuberculata* offspring from 3 different broodstock origins (wild, farmed selected on weight and farmed randomly sampled) observed over 48 h and feed intake observed over 1 mo; n = 11 aquaria treatment⁻¹ with 3 abalone in each, mixed model unless otherwise stated. Results are least square means \pm SE

Behaviour	Wild	Selected	Randomly sampled	Origin effect F/H	p
Day period					
Time hiding (%) [∇]	99.9 \pm 2.09	96.3 \pm 1.94	99.7 \pm 2.09	0.68	0.522
Time immobile in open zone (%) [∇]	0.3 \pm 2.04	3.2 \pm 1.89	0.03 \pm 2.04	0.61	0.557
Night period					
Time hiding (%)	56.1 \pm 6.46	48.3 \pm 6.02	54.4 \pm 6.46	0.53	0.600
Time immobile in open zone (%) ^δ	6.7 \pm 2.36	6.9 \pm 2.19	4.3 \pm 2.36	1.05	0.592
Time eating (%) ^α	18.1 \pm 3.43	21.1 \pm 3.19	19.8 \pm 3.43	0.26	0.773
Time moving (%)	18.9 \pm 2.92	23.6 \pm 2.72	21.6 \pm 2.92	0.94	0.411
Feed intake during 4 wk					
Quantity of algae ingested per gram of abalone (g wet algae g ⁻¹ abalone mo ⁻¹)	0.67 \pm 0.064	0.80 \pm 0.067	0.80 \pm 0.064	1.48	0.251
[∇] Welch test; ^δ Kruskal-Wallis test; ^α square root transformation					

3.1.2. Righting test

No significant differences in mean righting time ($F_{3,47} = 2.28$, $p = 0.113$), nor in the number of attempts to turn over ($F_{2,4.2} = 1.17$, $p = 0.395$), between wild, weight-selected and randomly sampled progenies were observed (Table 2).

3.1.3. Hiding test

An effect of broodstock origin was observed for the time until first movement ($F_{3,42} = 4.02$, $p = 0.024$) and the time to reach the hiding place ($H = 6.53$, $df = 2$,

$p = 0.038$) but not for the time until abalone were fully hidden ($H = 4.04$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.132$). The offspring of selected parents took longer before the first movement ($t = 2.58$, $p = 0.010$) and longer to reach the hiding place compared to the offspring of wild parents ($Q_{obs} = 318$, $p = 0.014$). The mean times were intermediate for the offspring of randomly sampled broodstock (Table 2).

3.1.4. Predator test

No effects of broodstock origin were observed for the time until first movement ($F_{2,17.7} = 0.56$, $p = 0.583$),

Table 2. Responses during behavioural tests of abalone *Haliotis tuberculata* offspring from 3 different broodstock origins (wild, farmed selected on weight and farmed randomly sampled); n = 19 abalone minimum treatment⁻¹, mixed model unless otherwise stated. Results are least square means \pm SE. Values with different superscripts are significantly different ($p < 0.05$)

Behaviour	Wild	Selected	Randomly sampled	Origin effect F/H/ χ^2	p
Righting test					
Righting time (s) ^α	63.3 \pm 6.79	54.4 \pm 6.66	42.8 \pm 7.13	2.28	0.113
Number of attempts to turn over [∇]	2.4 \pm 0.46	1.6 \pm 0.44	1.2 \pm 0.48	1.17	0.395
Hiding test					
Time until the first movement (s) ^α	30 ^a \pm 5.0	48 ^b \pm 5.0	39 ^{ab} \pm 6.1	4.02	0.024
Time to reach the hiding place (s) ^δ	60 ^a \pm 28.3	132 ^b \pm 28.5	79 ^{ab} \pm 35.0	6.53	0.038
Time before complete hiding (s) ^δ	242 \pm 58.6	231 \pm 59.2	94 \pm 72.4	4.04	0.132
Predator test					
Number of abalone that performed the 4 escape behaviours ^χ	12 out of 21 ^a	5 out of 21 ^b	6 out of 18 ^{ab}	5.20	0.074
Time spent moving (s)	198 \pm 12.2	193 \pm 12.3	194 \pm 13.3	0.04	0.959
Number of squares crossed	12.6 \pm 0.98	12.0 \pm 0.99	12.5 \pm 1.07	0.10	0.901
Number of mucus releases	2.2 ^a \pm 0.26	1.5 ^b \pm 0.26	1.4 ^b \pm 0.28	4.10	0.023
Time until the first movement (s) [∇]	11.8 \pm 2.29	14.3 \pm 2.31	14.9 \pm 2.50	0.56	0.583
^α log transformation; [∇] Welch test; ^δ Kruskal-Wallis test; ^χ chi-square test					

Table 3. Immunity parameters after shaking and air exposure stress in abalone *Haliotis tuberculata* offspring from 3 different broodstock origins (wild, farmed selected on weight and farmed randomly sampled); n = 16 abalone minimum treatment⁻¹, mixed model unless otherwise stated. Results are least square means ± SE

Parameter	Wild	Selected	Randomly sampled	Origin effect F/H	P
Phagocytosis efficiency (%)	13.3 ± 1.15	14.2 ± 1.21	14.3 ± 1.56	0.18	0.832
Number of beads engulfed cell ⁻¹ ∧	5.3 ± 0.16	5.2 ± 0.15	5.3 ± 0.18	0.25	0.777
Total haemocyte count (cells μl ⁻¹)	3396 ± 800.6	3611 ± 886.0	1861 ± 1152.9	0.93	0.399
∧ Welch test					

the time spent moving ($F_{3,45} = 0.04$, $p = 0.959$) or the number of squares crossed ($F_{3,45} = 0.10$, $p = 0.901$). However, a significant effect of treatment group was observed for the number of mucus releases ($F_{3,45} = 4.10$, $p = 0.023$): wild offspring released mucus more often compared to the offspring of selected parents ($t = -2.43$, $p = 0.020$) and the offspring of randomly sampled ones ($t = -2.50$, $p = 0.020$). In addition, there was a trend between treatments in the numbers of abalone that performed the 4 escape behaviours ($\chi^2 = 5.20$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.074$): more offspring of wild broodstock origin performed the complete behavioural anti-predation sequences compared to offspring of selected parents ($\chi^2 = 4.84$, $df = 1$, $p = 0.028$), while offspring of randomly sampled broodstock were intermediate but not significantly different (Table 2).

3.2. Immune function

No significant effects of broodstock origin were found for phagocytosis efficiency ($F_{3,52} = 0.18$, $p = 0.832$), number of beads engulfed per active cell (Welch test, $F_{2,29,7} = 0.25$, $p = 0.777$) or total haemocyte count ($F_{3,27} = 0.93$, $p = 0.399$) (Table 3).

3.3. Growth and survival

At 10 and 16 mo, no significant effects of broodstock origin were observed for length ($F_{3,884} = 3.24$, $p = 0.108$ at 10 mo; $F_{3,848} = 0.01$, $p = 0.997$ at 16 mo) and weight (Welch test, $F_{2,2,7} = 1.85$, $p = 0.311$ at 10 mo; $F_{3,848} = 0.08$, $p = 0.991$ at 16 mo) (Fig. 2).

No significant effects of broodstock origin were observed for length ($F_{3,216} = 0.04$, $p = 0.958$) and weight ($F_{3,216} = 0.10$, $p = 0.903$) at 34 mo of age. In addition, no significant difference in survival rate was observed during the sea-rearing period ($F_{3,18} = 0.92$, $p = 0.412$) (Table 4). For the dissection data, no significant effects of broodstock origin were observed for the muscle, gonad or shell indices (re-

spectively, $F_{3,133} = 0.45$, $p = 0.636$; Welch test, $F_{2,35,1} = 1.00$, $p = 0.379$; $F_{3,130} = 1.81$, $p = 0.167$). There was, however a significant effect for the digestive system index ($F_{3,133} = 6.00$, $p = 0.003$): offspring of wild abalone had a higher digestive system index than offspring from selected parents ($t = -3.26$, $p = 0.001$) and offspring of randomly selected broodstock ($t = -2.80$, $p = 0.006$) (Table 4).

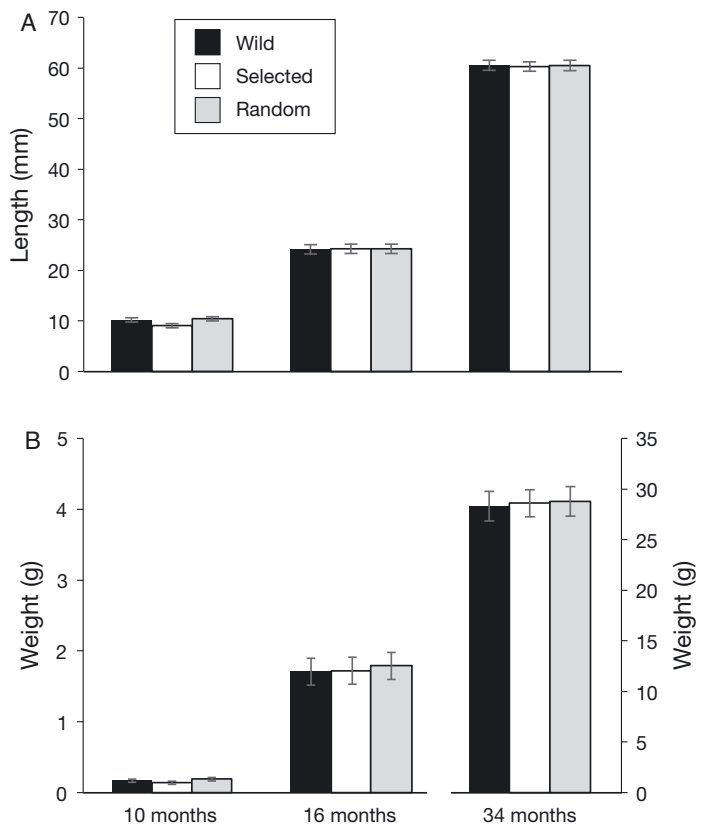


Fig. 2. (A) Length and (B) weight of abalone *Haliotis tuberculata* offspring at 10, 16 and 34 months of age from 3 different broodstock origins (wild, farmed selected for weight and farmed randomly sampled); n = 300 abalone treatment⁻¹ at 10 mo, n = 264 abalone minimum treatment⁻¹ at 16 mo, n = 63 minimum treatment⁻¹ for length and weight at 34 mo. Mixed model unless otherwise stated (least square means ± SE).

Note different scale for weight at 34 mo

Table 4. Survival and dissection measures at 34 mo of age of abalone *Haliotis tuberculata* offspring from 3 different broodstock origins (wild, farmed selected on weight and farmed randomly sampled); $n = 42$ minimum treatment⁻¹ for dissection measures; mixed model unless otherwise stated. Values with different superscripts are significantly different ($p < 0.05$)

Parameter	Wild	Selected	Randomly sampled	Origin effect <i>F</i>	<i>p</i>
Survival rate (%)	80.7 ± 4.62	83.6 ± 4.62	75.0 ± 4.62	0.92	0.412
Muscle index (%) ^β	35.0 ± 0.34	39.9 ± 0.30	34.6 ± 0.37	0.45	0.636
Gonad index (%) ^γ	9.5 ± 0.45	9.5 ± 0.40	9.5 ± 0.48	1.00	0.379
Digestive system index (%) ^α	6.2 ± 0.19 ^a	5.3 ± 0.17 ^b	5.4 ± 0.20 ^b	6.00	0.003
Shell index (%) ^β	25.6 ± 0.47	26.4 ± 0.42	26.4 ± 0.49	1.81	0.167

^βInverse transformation; ^γWelch test; ^αsquare root transformation

3.4. Shell colour and pattern

Broodstock origin effects were found for shell pattern ($\chi^2 = 11.0$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.027$), and shell colour ($\chi^2 = 6.0$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.049$) (Fig. 3). Offspring from wild parents had less stripes compared to offspring from

broodstock selected based on weight ($\chi^2 = 10.0$, $df = 1$, $p = 0.007$) and tended to have less stripes than offspring of randomly sampled parents ($\chi^2 = 5.8$, $df = 1$, $p = 0.054$) (respectively, 32.6 vs. 61.6 vs. 57.1% of the shells with stripes). For shell colour, more offspring from wild origin parents had a brown-green shell colour compared to those from broodstock selected based on weight ($\chi^2 = 5.1$, $df = 1$, $p = 0.024$) and from randomly selected broodstock ($\chi^2 = 4.6$, $df = 1$, $p = 0.032$) (respectively, 80.4 vs. 60.0 vs. 59.5% of the shells with dark brown-green colour).

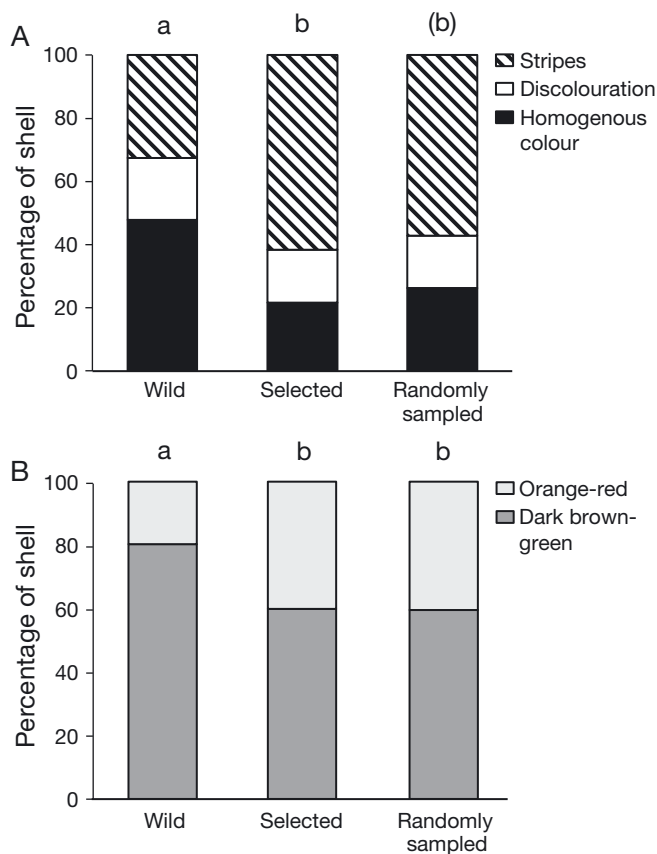


Fig. 3. (A) Shell pattern and (B) shell colour of offspring from 3 different abalone *Haliotis tuberculata* broodstock origins (wild, farmed selected on weight and farmed randomly sampled) ($n = 42$ abalone minimum treatment⁻¹, $n = 148$ in total, Pearson's chi-squared test). Values with different letters 'a' and 'b' differ ($p < 0.05$). Values with letters within parenthesis (b) tend to differ from values with letters 'a' ($p < 0.10$)

4. DISCUSSION

The aim of our experiment was to study the early consequences of the domestication process, and of genetic selection to improve growth, on behavioural and physiological traits in different progenies. The broodstocks for the 3 sets of offspring were probably not very different genetically, as the farm broodstock were derived from crosses between farmed and wild parents, and only one round of selection on weight had been imposed in the case of the offspring of selected broodstock. Thus, it was not surprising that no significant effect was observed on the selected trait (growth) and most of the physiological and diurnal rhythm traits. Surprisingly however, the offspring from the selected broodstock showed an alteration in hiding behaviour and responses to a predator, both in quantitative terms and also in the qualitative nature of the responses.

Abalone from broodstock selected for on weight and randomly sampled broodstock also emitted mucus less frequently on contact with a predator compared to abalone from wild broodstock. In addition, fewer offspring from parents selected for weight completed the full escape behaviour repertoire, showing a reduction in terms of effective escape behaviour compared to abalone from wild parents. The sequences

of these escape behaviour subunits are stereotyped and depend on the predator type (Bullock 1953). If the subunits of the escape response to starfish are expressed in the wrong order or context, they appear to be less efficient (Parsons & Macmillan 1979). Ejected mucus is thought to interfere with the starfish's olfactory system, to obscure the abalone's escape direction (Day et al. 1995, Bancalà 2009). Several hypotheses might explain the lower frequency of mucus release, perhaps due to a reduction in the production of mucus glands or to an increased stimulation threshold required to trigger mucus releases in offspring of selected broodstock compared to offspring of wild origin.

Most *Haliotis* spp. are photophobic species (Momma & Sato 1969, 1970, Shepherd 1973). This strong photonegative behaviour is likely a way to avoid predators, and was observed in our experiment, with abalone spending at least 96% of their time hiding during the daytime. When exposed to an illuminated place during the hiding test, abalone from selected broodstock and randomly sampled broodstock took longer to make the first movement and to reach the hiding place compared to offspring from wild abalone. Several hypotheses can explain this result. Abalone perceive light via their retinas (Tasaki & Tsukahara 1971). A longer latency before moving could result from a structural change in the photoreceptive cells of the retina (Kataoka & Yamamoto 1981). However, these effects of selection have not been reported in other domesticated animals. Another hypothesis could be a lower energy level in offspring from the weight-selected broodstock compared to offspring from wild abalone. Two other results from the experiment allow us to refute this hypothesis: abalone from weight-selected parents ingested the same quantity of algae per gram of abalone as those in other treatments during the 1 mo diurnal rhythm measurements, and no differences were observed during the righting test, which is a good indirect indicator of metabolic and energetic status (Baldwin et al. 2007) as well as of subsequent abalone survival (Lachambre et al. 2017b). The third hypothesis, and probably the most plausible, is a change in the stimulus threshold required to trigger a response to a dangerous situation (i.e. being exposed in the light to predator). When abalone were placed in situations with no stress response involved, no significant differences of behaviour were observed: there were no detectable feeding differences between the 3 progeny groups, nor any diurnal rhythm differences. Although faster feeding was reported in domesticated salmonids compared to fish collected in

the wild (Yamamoto & Reinhardt 2003), no change of diurnal rhythm has been reported in the literature as a direct effect of domestication.

More offspring from weight-selected broodstock and randomly selected ones had an orange-coloured and striped shell compared to offspring from wild broodstock, which had a more homogenous, brown-greenish colour. Abalone shell colour is known to be affected by their diet (Marchais et al. 2017). However, in our case, for most of the rearing period the abalone received a monospecific type of algae, depending on the season. Consequently, no feeding choice was possible in the cages. The colour differentiation observed probably had a genetic origin, as demonstrated in many other molluscan species (Williams 2017). Studies on *H. discus hannai* highlighted a genetic control of colour and reported a new variant with orange shell colouration, distinguishable from the wild green-shelled abalone (Liu et al. 2009), and a novel orange variant was reported for *H. diversicolor* (Xin et al. 2017). In our experiment, even though the relaxed selection that accompanies the transition from field to captive environments might explain some of the variation with an absence of selection on the farmed parental generation that might produce the more orange, striped offspring, another hypothesis should be considered. Abalone were selected for weight but an unintentional selection for shells with a brighter colour and nicer looking pattern cannot be excluded. Personal preferences often influence the selection of breeding stock, and these biases may be very subtle and are often unintentional (Price 1999). In addition, the fact that shell colour is one of the most highly heritable traits (Lachambre 2017) supports the rapid changes of colour observed between generations. However, this modification of shell colour and pattern would probably impair the camouflage and predator avoidance advantages of the wild colour and pattern, which highlights how important it is to control possible unintentional selection if animals are produced for ranching or a stock enhancement program (Hansen & Gosselin 2013).

We expected a response in the targeted trait to the selection of the 5% heaviest individuals in the broodstock. However, no weight or size gains were observed at 10, 16 and 34 months in the progeny of weight-selected parents. Numerous studies have shown that growth is a heritable trait in *Haliotis* spp. (Lucas et al. 2006, Robinson et al. 2013, Roussel et al. 2013, Camara & Symonds 2014, Brokordt et al. 2015), although the estimation of heritability varies widely among species and for the same species. Neverthe-

less, improved growth of the F_1 generation is not always observed in spite of the fact that growth in weight is a heritable trait. A reduced or lack of a selective effect on growth rate in the F_1 generation has often been reported in selected species, with selection responses being identified only after 2 generations of domestication (Falconer & Mackay 1996). Phenotypic variability is the physical expression of what a particular gene or set of genes (the genotype) will produce under particular environmental conditions (Elliott 2000). The 5% heaviest individuals in the broodstock might be heavier due to environmental heterogeneity but not as a result of a higher genetic potential. In addition, the survival of early juvenile abalone and the quality of the algae and diatoms used for juvenile feeding are difficult to control, especially after larval settlement, and every procedure during this period may induce high mortality (Daume et al. 2004, de Viçose et al. 2012). However, temperature, light exposure, handling and predation were similar between the treatments, as well as the food quality at settlement and the density and food quality after the age of 10 mo. It is difficult to maintain stable environment conditions during the first months of culture in the nursery, due to the interactions between settlement, *Ulvela lens* growth and the effects of juvenile density at 4–5 mo of age. The variability of density and food during the first 10 mo of development may have compromised the expression of the genetic potential for growth in the offspring of weight-selected broodstock. The smaller digestive system observed in the progeny of the selected broodstock at the adult stage may partly confirm this hypothesis, and may indicate food deprivation during early development.

No differences between the progeny groups were observed in survival rate or immune status following stress. Because immune and stress responses are essential for survival, selection pressure probably does not lead to rapid modification of genes associated with these functions (Nesse & Young 2000), which might explain the lack of a difference after one generation in abalone.

According to Price (1999), domestication is based on 3 processes. First, there is an intensified selection of traits preferred by humans. Second, the transition from the wild to a captive environment can be expected to be accompanied by relaxed natural selection such as predation and starvation. The third domestication process described by Price (1999) is inadvertent selection under captivity, which can lead to adaptation. Recently, epigenetic mechanisms have been highlighted corresponding to the control of

gene expression during development on physiology and metabolism (Symonds et al. 2009) as well as on behaviour regulation (Lester et al. 2011, Jensen 2015). During our experiment, this maternal effect was controlled, because broodstock were conditioned in a similar way for approximately 4–5 mo, with similar food, temperature and light control, and a minimum of handling. However, because a difference in stress response has been shown in wild compared to farmed abalone (Lachambre et al. 2017a,b), the impact of stress during the conditioning process cannot be completely excluded.

Inadvertent selection under captivity can lead to adaptation of captive animals to farm conditions. Farm-rearing conditions such as high stocking density (Travers et al. 2010) and handling during grading practices (Hooper et al. 2011) imply that even the progeny from wild parents, studied at 3 yr of age, had already been subjected to inadvertent selection. The selection processes during captive rearing probably explain an important part of the differences observed between farmed abalone and wild *H. tuberculata*, where abalone from the farm showed a reduced retraction in reaction to finger contact and quicker immune recovery after a stress compared to wild abalone (Lachambre et al. 2017a) and spent less time moving at night than wild abalone (Lachambre et al. 2017b). In contrast to the experiments described above, the progeny in our experiment were bred in the same environment and were reared under common conditions. Thus, inadvertent selection and behavioural acclimation were similar. The effects observed for the progeny from the randomly selected broodstock may result from inadvertent selection of the broodstock, but further studies are needed to evaluate this.

Recent selection of marine animals is based mainly on growth or meat yield (Lorenzen et al. 2012). Behaviour and other traits such as physiology and growth are probably polygenic and would show a quantitative inheritance pattern (Jensen 2006), even for molluscs. For example, a significant heritability ($h^2 = 0.2–0.8$) has been shown for antipredator behaviour in squid (Sinn et al. 2006) and scallops ($h^2 = 0.36–0.57$) (Brokordt et al. 2012). Foraging behaviour heritability had less additive genetic value and greater residual ($h^2 = 0.05–0.08$) in squid. In abalone, heritability of distance travelled after a stress event has also been shown to have a significant but a very weak heritability ($h^2 = 0.05$) (Robinson et al. 2013). Our results are consistent with the general trend observed during domestication, but are surprising in terms of the rapidity of behavioural modification.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Domestication is a complex process with several mechanisms implicated in the transition from wild to farmed animals. Marine animals that produce very large numbers of offspring and may have phenotypic plasticity to allow for different environments encountered by settling larvae may show many rapid changes. It is difficult to untangle the effect of the environment from that of genetics. By controlling the environment during parental conditioning and by placing the offspring in a similar environment, the genetic effects of domestication were studied here. The different progenies compared in our study were at different early stages of domestication (Teletchea & Fontaine 2014). The offspring from wild broodstock spent their entire life cycle in captivity, where natural selection was absent (relaxed selection), and inadvertent selection due to the farm environment was probably significant. This group probably represents the first step of the domestication process. The offspring from randomly sampled farmed broodstock (resulting from crosses between wild and farmed broodstock) showed some differences from the offspring of the wild broodstock in terms of shell pattern and colour, probably resulting from unintentional selection. There also appear to be small differences in terms of response to a predator, showing that these traits may be changed in less than 2 generations in a farming context. For the offspring from weight-selected farm broodstock, no responses to selection were observed for offspring length and weight, but modifications of the responses to a predator, of hiding behaviour and of shell colour and pattern were observed, either in quantity or in quality. Overall, these results indicate that conscious selection can modify the behaviour and shell colour of abalone undergoing a domestication process in only one generation, even though many other phenotypic traits studied in the 3 offspring groups were similar. These rapid modifications represent a real challenge if the offspring from selected broodstock or even randomly sampled broodstock are to be used in ranching or enhancement of abalone fisheries. In addition, such changes would be expected to become more pronounced following more generations of conscious or unintentional selection in a farm. The degree of domestication of farm animals is likely to affect their fitness in the context of ranching or population enhancement operations. Abalone are one of the few marine taxa where ranching or marine stock enhancement is reported to be economically profitable (Kitada 2018). However, even if recapture rates

are relatively high, a large variation in recapture rates has been reported (Kitada 2018). Considering their better performance in anti-predator behaviour sequences, the use of wild broodstocks for marine stock enhancement programs should be encouraged.

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