



**HAL**  
open science

## Reproductive senescence and parental effects in an indeterminate grower

Charlotte Depeux, Jean-François Lemaître Lemaître, Jérôme Moreau, François-xavier Dechaume-moncharmont, Tiffany Laverre, Hélène Pauhac, Jean-Michel Gaillard, Sophie Beltran-Bech

### ► To cite this version:

Charlotte Depeux, Jean-François Lemaître Lemaître, Jérôme Moreau, François-xavier Dechaume-moncharmont, Tiffany Laverre, et al.. Reproductive senescence and parental effects in an indeterminate grower. *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, 2020, 33, pp.1256-1264. 10.1111/jeb.13667. hal-03060301

**HAL Id: hal-03060301**

**<https://hal.science/hal-03060301v1>**

Submitted on 14 Dec 2020

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

# 1 **Reproductive senescence and parental effect in an** 2 **indeterminate grower**

3

4 Short running title: Reproductive senescence in the woodlouse

5

6 Charlotte DEPEUX<sup>1, 2</sup>, Jean-François LEMAÎTRE<sup>2</sup>, Jérôme MOREAU<sup>3,4</sup>, François-Xavier  
7 DECHAUME-MONCHARMONT<sup>5</sup>, Tiffany LAVERRE<sup>1</sup>, Hélène PAUHLAC<sup>1</sup>, Jean-Michel  
8 GAILLARD<sup>2</sup>, Sophie BELTRAN-BECH<sup>1</sup>

9

10 1 Université de Poitiers, Laboratoire Ecologie et Biologie des Interactions, UMR CNRS 7267, 5  
11 rue Albert Turpin, TSA51106 86073 POITIERS Cedex 9, France.

12

13 2 Université Lyon 1, Laboratoire de Biométrie et Biologie Evolutive UMR CNRS 558, 43  
14 Boulevard du 11 novembre 1918, 69622 Villeurbanne cedex, France.

15

16 3 UMR CNRS 6282 Biogéosciences, Université Bourgogne Franche-Comté, 6 Boulevard,  
17 Gabriel, 21000 Dijon, France

18

19 4 Centre d'Études Biologiques de Chizé, UMR 7372, CNRS & La Rochelle Université, 79360  
20 Villiers-en-bois, France

21

22 5 Univ Lyon, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, CNRS, ENTPE, UMR 5023 LEHNA, F-69622,  
23 Villeurbanne, France\* Corresponding author: charlotte.depeux@gmail.fr

24

## 25 **Acknowledgments**

26 This work was supported by the French ministry of Education, the 2015–2020 State-Region  
27 Planning Contract and European Regional Development Fund and intramural funds from the  
28 Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique and the University of Poitiers and by a grant from  
29 the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR-15-CE32-0002-01). We would like to thank Sylvine  
30 Durand, Cybèle Prigot, Ophélie Trainson, Clémentine Préau and Marius Bredon for our  
31 constructive exchanges about that work as well as Alexandra Lafitte for technical assistance. We  
32 would also like to thank Richard Cordaux and Xavier Bonnet for their insightful comments.

33

## 34 **Conflict of Interest**

35 The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

36

## 37 **Abstract**

38 Reproductive senescence is the decrease of reproductive performance with increasing age and  
39 can potentially include trans-generational effects as the offspring produced by old parents might  
40 have a lower fitness than those produced by young parents. This negative effect may be caused  
41 either by the age of the father, mother, or the interaction between the ages of both parents. Using  
42 the common woodlouse *Armadillidium vulgare*, an indeterminate grower, as a biological model,  
43 we tested for the existence of a deleterious effect of parental age on fitness components. Contrary  
44 to previous findings reported from vertebrate studies, old parents produced both a higher number  
45 and larger offspring than young parents. However, their offspring had lower fitness components  
46 (by surviving less, producing a smaller number of clutches, or not reproducing at all) than  
47 offspring born to young parents. Our findings strongly support the existence of trans-generational  
48 senescence in woodlice and contradict the belief that old individuals in indeterminate growers  
49 contribute the most to recruitment and correspond thereby to the key life stage for population  
50 dynamics. Our work also provides rare evidence that the trans-generational effect of senescence  
51 can be stronger than direct reproductive senescence in indeterminate growers.

52

## 53 **Keywords**

54 Reproductive success, aging, *Armadillidium vulgare*, clutch size, indeterminate growth

55

## 56 **Introduction**

57 Deciphering the eco-evolutionary roots of inter-individual variation in reproductive success is a  
58 long-standing objective in evolutionary biology. Many overall (e.g. temperature, photoperiod)  
59 and biotic (e.g. social relationships, population density, predation, food availability) factors can  
60 modulate reproductive success in both vertebrates and invertebrates (e.g. Descamps *et al.*, 2008;  
61 Geister *et al.*, 2008; Schwanz, 2008; Bertram, 2009; Donelson *et al.*, 2010). Within a given  
62 population, individual attributes such as age and size are also associated with reproductive  
63 performance in most animals (Clutton-Brock, 1991). However, reproductive success, usually  
64 measured as the number of offspring produced at some pre-defined stage, (i.e. conception, birth,  
65 or independence of offspring) does not account for the entire process of reproduction. In an  
66 evolutionary context where the performance of offspring matters because it shapes Darwinian

67 fitness (at the individual level) and growth (at the population level), a trans-generational approach  
68 is required.

69 Among the factors that influence the fate of offspring, the role of parental age is currently  
70 attracting considerable attention (see Lemaître & Gaillard, 2017 for a review). Evidence of a  
71 decrease in reproductive performance at old age has accumulated in the last decades (Nussey *et*  
72 *al.*, 2013) and empirical studies have reported evidence of reproductive senescence in a large  
73 range of reproductive traits including clutch size (Tabata & Teshiba, 2018), juvenile mass or size  
74 (Sharp & Clutton-Brock, 2010; Barks & Laird, 2016), offspring survival (Packer *et al.*, 1998),  
75 offspring reproduction (Ducatez *et al.*, 2012) or offspring lifespan (Lansing, 1947; Barks &  
76 Laird, 2016). Interestingly, when Lansing (1947) published his pioneering study demonstrating a  
77 negative effect of parental age on offspring lifespan in rotifers, he made no explicit distinction  
78 between the maternal and paternal ages. However, most studies of this process (i.e. the so-called  
79 Lansing effect) have focused on maternal age (Lemaître & Gaillard, 2017) while old paternal age  
80 should also negatively influence offspring performance (Lemaître & Gaillard, 2017) as a result of  
81 decreasing sperm quality with increasing paternal age (Johnson & Gemmell, 2012). Studies  
82 looking at the effect of both maternal and paternal ages as well as their potential interactions are  
83 now strongly required (Dzyuba, 2006; Tidière *et al.*, 2018).

84 So far, most studies of parental age effect focused on determinate growers (especially long-lived  
85 birds and mammals) (Fay *et al.*, 2016), which are supposed to show stronger senescence than  
86 indeterminate growers (Vaupel *et al.*, 2004). In indeterminate growers the number of offspring  
87 produced per reproductive attempt is expected to increase with age, which should counter-select  
88 reproductive senescence in terms of fecundity (Vaupel *et al.*, 2004; Jones *et al.*, 2014). For  
89 example, in fish populations, older and so bigger individuals generally have a higher reproductive  
90 success than younger and smaller individuals (Venturelli *et al.*, 2009), which might be due to the  
91 production of high quality eggs by old females (e.g. Vallin & Nissling, 2000 in the Atlantic cod,  
92 *Gadus morhua*). Age classes largely differ in size in indeterminate growers, which makes mating  
93 between individuals from distinct cohorts difficult, if not impossible. In such species, both  
94 selective pressure and physical constraints during mating can lead to a pattern of size- (and thus  
95 age-) assortative mating (Crespi, 1989). Thus, reproductive senescence can be exacerbated by the  
96 cumulative effects of both maternal and paternal ages (Lemaître & Gaillard, 2017). While  
97 investigations of reproductive senescence are mandatory to refine our current understanding of

98 the evolution of senescence (Jones & Vaupel, 2017), such studies are still lacking, especially in  
99 invertebrates. Here, we aim to fill this knowledge gap by investigating whether reproductive  
100 senescence occurs in an indeterminate grower, the common woodlouse *Armadillidium vulgare*,  
101 and whether advanced parental age negatively influences offspring fitness components.  
102

## 103 **Materials and Methods**

### 104 ***Biological model***

105 The common woodlouse is a terrestrial isopod that can live up to three years (Paris & Pitelka,  
106 1962). This species exhibits indeterminate growth and as such large size differences across  
107 individuals can be observed. For instance, an old individual could be up to ten times larger than a  
108 newly mature individual (Brody *et al.*, 1983). Therefore, physical constraints prevent young  
109 individuals to mate with old ones, leading to a pattern of assortative mating in both size and age  
110 at the population level (Lefebvre *et al.*, 2019). Female parental care is energetically costly in this  
111 species as females actively carry and protect their offspring in a marsupium for a month (Surbida  
112 & Wright, 2001). Offspring develop in this pouch and benefit from a protected environment and  
113 nutrients provided by their mother (Surbida & Wright, 2001). As the incubation of the offspring  
114 takes place in the marsupium, the size of the females is closely associated with the number of  
115 offspring produced (Paris & Pitelka, 1962; Dangerfield & Hassall, 1992; Durand *et al.*, 2018).  
116

117 All individuals of *A. vulgare* used in our experiment came from a natural population collected in  
118 Denmark (Helsingør) in 1982. All the specimens were virgin at the beginning of the study and  
119 had been maintained on moistened compost and subjected to Poitiers natural photoperiod (86;  
120 46° 34' 55" N; 0° 20' 10" E) at 20°C with food provided ad libitum (i.e. slices of fresh carrots and  
121 dried leaves of linden, *Tilia* sp). These conditions were repeated across all experiments.  
122

### 123 ***Differences of reproductive performance between young and old parents***

124 We set up two groups of 40 breeding pairs comprising of one male and one female: one group  
125 was made up of old parents (36-months-old) and another group was made up of young ones (12-  
126 months old). The mass of each individual was initially checked to control for variation within age  
127 groups. Young individuals weighed (mean  $\pm$  sd) 0.081g  $\pm$  0.027g and old ones 0.293g  $\pm$  0.044g.  
128 All 80 breeding pairs were weekly monitored throughout 7 months (i.e. during the entire

129 reproductive season, from January to July) and when females were gravid, they were isolated and  
130 placed in boxes with wet paper towel. Only the first clutch produced was used because very few  
131 breeding pairs produced a second clutch. We computed the breeding rate according to age (the  
132 probability to produce a clutch) for each parental group (i.e. young parents and old parents). We  
133 recorded the number of offspring per clutch (hereafter called clutch size). The entire clutch was  
134 weighed and then divided by clutch size to obtain the mean offspring mass at birth. The  
135 experimental design is presented in Figure 1.

136

### 137 ***Inter-generational traits: offspring mass, survival and reproductive success***

138 We monitored the offspring during the most critical period of their lives (0-18 months). Indeed,  
139 in the wild, only 11% of individuals are able to reach 2-years-old (Paris & Pitelka, 1962). To  
140 estimate survival, we counted offspring from the previous breeding pairs a first time at birth, a  
141 second time at 5 months of age, then at 12 months of age and finally at 18 months of age (Figure  
142 1). The number of surviving offspring counted at each time allowed estimating offspring survival  
143 from 0 to 5 months of age, offspring survival from 5 to 12 months of age, offspring survival from  
144 12 to 18 months of age and total offspring survival (i.e. from 0 to 18 months of age). Offspring  
145 were weighed as 12 ( $\pm 1$ ) months old and then as 18 ( $\pm 1$ ) months old to obtain the offspring  
146 mass at 12 months of age and the offspring mass at 18 months of age. To estimate reproductive  
147 success of offspring born from young or old parents, we set up, when they are sexually mature  
148 (i.e. 1-year-old, Paris & Pitelka, 1962), 4 combinations of 20 breeding pairs (avoiding brothers  
149 and sisters): (i) offspring from old parents together, (ii) female offspring from old parents with  
150 male offspring from young parents, (iii) females offspring from young parents with male  
151 offspring from old parents, and (iv) offspring from young parents together. To avoid pseudo-  
152 replication issues (sensu Hurlbert 1984), we analyzed the reproductive status (i.e. reproduction  
153 success or failure) of the pair as function of the age group of the female's parents in interaction  
154 with the age group of the father' parents.

155

### 156 ***Statistical analysis***

157 All statistical analyses were performed using the software R 3.6.0 (R Core Development Team  
158 2019). For each model, we followed a model selection procedure to identify the minimal model,  
159 or the set of adequate models (Anderson & Burnham, 2002). Starting from the full model, we

160 ranked all the nested models based on their AIC. Among the top ranked models ( $\Delta AIC < 2$ ),  
161 we only retained the most parsimonious ones: if one of these models was simply a more complex  
162 form of another one listed among the top rank models, for instance because it contained an  
163 additional parameter (variable or interaction term), this parameter was ignored and the more  
164 complex model was not retained (Galipaud *et al.*, 2014, Supplementary file 1). For the mean  
165 offspring mass at birth, at 12 months of age and at 18 months of age as for offspring survival at 5  
166 months of age, between 5 and 12 months of age and at 18 months of age we first tested for an  
167 effect of clutch size. When clutch size had a statistically significant effect (see Supplementary file  
168 2), it was systematically included in the set of considered models (see Berger *et al.*, 2015 for a  
169 similar approach).

170 Breeding rate as binary data has been modelled using a generalized linear model (GLM) with  
171 binomial distribution with parent's age ('young parents' vs. 'old parents') as a fixed factor.  
172 Clutch size was modelled using a linear model (LM) with normal distribution with parent's age  
173 as a fixed factor. The mean offspring mass at birth was modelled using a linear model (LM) with  
174 a normal distribution because only the average clutch mass was recorded (i.e. individual body  
175 mass within a clutch could not be measured at birth). Offspring mass at 12 months of age and  
176 offspring mass at 18 months of age were analysed with a linear mixed effect models (LMM) with  
177 a normal distribution, using parent's age, offspring sex and their interaction as fixed factors and  
178 the breeding pairs identity as a random effect to take into account a potential genetic effect. The  
179 survival to 5 months of age was modelled with a generalized linear mixed effect model (GLMM)  
180 with a binomial distribution, the parent's age and clutch size were the fixed factors, and the  
181 breeding pairs identity was the random effect. The offspring survival from 5 to 12 months of age,  
182 from 12 to 18 months of age, and the overall survival (i.e. from 0 to 18 months of age) have been  
183 modelled as binary data using generalized linear mixed effect models (GLMM) with a binomial  
184 distribution, parent's age and offspring sex and their interaction added to the clutch size were the  
185 fixed factors and the breeding pairs identity was used as the random effect. The breeding rate of  
186 offspring was modelled with binary data using a generalized linear model (GLM), with mother's  
187 age and father's age and their interaction as fixed factors.

188 Finally, reproductive senescence can be masked by the selective disappearance of low quality  
189 individuals (Nussey *et al.*, 2008). For a given age larger females produce more offspring in the  
190 common woodlouse and body mass is thus generally thought to be a good indicator of individual

191 quality (Durand *et al.*, 2018). We tested for such relationships by modelling the breeding rate as  
192 binary data using a generalized linear model (GLM) with maternal mass set as a fixed factor  
193 within the young and old mothers separately. Then, in absence of repeated data on individuals  
194 over the life course, we tested for a putative influence of selective disappearance on our results by  
195 testing within the old parents group whether the first 50% of individuals that encounter premature  
196 death were lighter than the individuals that survived beyond the median life span. When doing  
197 this the effect of mass on survival of the old individual group has been modelled as binary data  
198 using a generalized linear model (GLM) with binomial distribution with individual mass, sex and  
199 their interaction as fixed factors.

200

## 201 **Results**

### 202 *Differences of reproductive performance between young and old parents*

203 Old parents (40 breeding pairs) produced 16 clutches, while young parents (40 breeding pairs)  
204 produced 24 clutches. No detectable difference was found concerning the breeding rate. The  
205 model with only the intercept was selected, but if we looked the non-selected model concerning  
206 the effect of age on the breeding rate, we found that the breeding rate tended to decrease with  
207 increasing parental age (estimate  $\pm$  SE=-0.76  $\pm$  0.45, LR Chisq<sub>1</sub>=2.86, P=0.09; Table 1; Figure  
208 2). Moreover, old parents produced more and heavier offspring than young parents (estimate  $\pm$   
209 SE=45.15  $\pm$  12.90, LR Chisq<sub>1</sub>= 12.62, P<0.001; estimate  $\pm$  SE=5.63e05g  $\pm$  1.77e05g, LR  
210 Chisq<sub>1</sub>=12.62, P=0.001, respectively; Table 1; Figure 3).

211

### 212 *Offspring mass, survival and reproductive success*

213 The offspring mass at 12 and 18 months did not differ between young and old parents (estimate  $\pm$   
214 SE=0.004  $\pm$  0.003, LR Chisq<sub>1</sub>=1.94, P=0.16; estimate  $\pm$  SE=0.002  $\pm$  0.004, LR Chisq<sub>1</sub>=0.11,  
215 P=0.73 for 12 and 18 months, respectively; Table 1). The cumulative survival (from 0 to 18  
216 months) was higher for offspring born from young parents than for offspring coming from old  
217 parents (estimate  $\pm$  SE=0.018  $\pm$  0.09, LR Chisq<sub>1</sub>=3.95, P=0.04; Table 1; Figure 4). More  
218 specifically, this difference did not occur for the offspring survival between birth and 5 months of  
219 age (estimate  $\pm$  SE=0.18  $\pm$  0.69, LR Chisq<sub>1</sub>=0.07, P=0.79; Table 1; Figure 4) but is present for  
220 the survival from 5 to 12 months (estimate  $\pm$  SE=-0.90  $\pm$  0.41, LR Chisq<sub>1</sub>=4.27, P=0.04; Table 1;  
221 Figure 4) and from 12 to 18 months (estimate  $\pm$  SE=-1.06  $\pm$  0.24, LR Chisq<sub>1</sub>=8.22, P=0.004;

222 Table 1; Figure 4). Reproductive success of offspring was higher for offspring born from young  
223 mothers and young fathers than for offspring born from old fathers or old mothers (0.25 vs. 0 for  
224 young and old females, respectively, 0.20 vs. 0.05 for young and old males, respectively; LR  
225  $\text{Chisq}_1=15.99$ ,  $P<0.001$  and LR  $\text{Chisq}_1=5.06$ ,  $P=0.02$ ; Table 1; Figure 5).

226

### 227 ***Selective disappearance***

228 The maternal mass did not influence the breeding rate within both the young mothers ( $\chi^2=0.27$ ,  
229  $df=1$ ,  $P=0.59$ ) and the old mothers ( $\chi^2=2.31$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $P=0.12$ ). We also did not find any link  
230 between body mass and survival in the 3-years-old group ( $\chi^2=1.66$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $P=0.20$ ) neither in  
231 males nor in females as expressed by the absence of statistically significant interaction between  
232 sex and body mass (estimate  $\pm$  SE= $-17.19 \pm 11.44$ ,  $P=0.13$ ).

233

## 234 **Discussion**

235 In indeterminate growers, reproductive success should increase with age, leading to an absence or  
236 a negligible reproductive senescence (Vaupel *et al.*, 2004). At first glance, our results support this  
237 prediction as old parents produced clutches containing more offspring than young ones (Vaupel  
238 *et al.*, 2004). However, old parents tended to produce a smaller number of clutches than young  
239 ones and we detected a trans-generational effect of reproductive senescence because parental age  
240 negatively influenced both survival and reproduction of offspring. As we had hardly obtained  
241 clutches from offspring of old individuals, we were unable to study the quality of the  
242 grandchildren.

243 The effect of the environmental context experienced by the parents (e.g. diet, temperature,  
244 pathogen prevalence) on offspring performance has been described for a long time (Mousseau,  
245 1998; Curley *et al.*, 2011) but an increasing number of studies have revealed that parental age can  
246 also negatively impact offspring survival (Priest *et al.*, 2002; Fox *et al.*, 2003) and reproduction  
247 (Priest *et al.*, 2008; Bouwhuis *et al.*, 2010; Ducatez *et al.*, 2012; Schroeder *et al.*, 2015; Lippens  
248 *et al.*, 2017). For instance, in Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*), older mothers produce  
249 offspring with impaired survival (Reichert *et al.*, 2019) and in the rotifers *Brachionus*  
250 *manjavacas*, maternal age negatively affects offspring survival and reproduction (e.g. egg  
251 quality) (Bock *et al.*, 2019). These results are in line with ours as we found that the parent's age  
252 has a high impact on offspring survival and reproductive prospects. Moreover, we demonstrated

253 the occurrence of a trans-generational effect of parental age across generations. We reported that  
254 males from old parents reproduced less than males from young parents and this observed effect in  
255 males was stronger in females because females from old parents did not reproduce at all.  
256 Several mechanisms could be involved in these trans-generational effects, including oxidative  
257 stress, telomere inheritance, epigenetics, or parental care (Njajou *et al.*, 2007; Franklin &  
258 Mansuy, 2010). Most studies of the physiological basis of senescence in invertebrates (notably in  
259 *Drosophila melanogaster* and *Caenorhabditis elegans*) have focused on oxidative stress due to its  
260 well-described effect on lifespan (Golden *et al.*, 2002). Parental care could also be impacted by  
261 age (Lemaître & Gaillard, 2017) notably because the ability of acquiring and storing body  
262 reserves often decreases with increasing age, at least in vertebrates (Skogland, 1988; Lecomte *et*  
263 *al.*, 2010). Parental care effects are also well documented in invertebrates, in particular in insects  
264 (Wong *et al.*, 2013) but the few studies investigating the effect of age on parental care in  
265 invertebrates have provided mixed results (Ivimey-Cook & Moorad, 2018). In some organisms  
266 such as viviparous terrestrial isopods, the maintenance of the reproductive system can be very  
267 energetically expensive (Lardies *et al.*, 2004). In the woodlice, females provide nutrients to  
268 offspring during the incubation in the marsupium by a fluid called marsupial fluid (Surbida &  
269 Wright, 2001). Thus, both the quality and the quantity of nutrients provided by females in  
270 marsupium fluid could determine offspring quality and thereby their viability. Studies  
271 investigating how the marsupial fluid properties change with mother's age in the woodlouse and  
272 whether such changes might account for the decrease in reproductive success we reported in old  
273 individuals are strongly required. Overall, our knowledge on age-specific allocation to maternal  
274 and paternal care is still in its infancy in invertebrates, but we can hypothesise that a decrease in  
275 maternal care associated to increased oxidative stress and some epigenetic factors (Curley *et al.*,  
276 2011; Guillaumet-Adkins *et al.*, 2017) could contribute to the trans-generational effect observed  
277 in woodlouse.

278 One of the grey areas of these results is the source of this trans-generational effect. While many  
279 studies have focused on the maternal effect, the paternal effect and the interaction between both  
280 effects remain relatively unknown. Among the rare studies that have investigated the influence of  
281 both maternal and paternal age, Bouwhuis and colleagues (2015) showed that the trans-  
282 generational effects are sex-specific in the common tern, *Sterna hirundo*. In this species,  
283 daughters from old mothers had a lower reproductive success than daughters from young mothers

284 and sons from old fathers had a shorter lifespan than sons from young fathers. In the invertebrate  
285 *Drosophila melanogaster*, the effect of parent's age in offspring reproduction differs between  
286 sexes: sons were insensitive to maternal age but had reduced reproductive abilities with paternal  
287 age when daughters from old mothers showed a decrease in reproductive success (Mossman *et*  
288 *al.*, 2019). Offspring produced by both old mothers and fathers show a substantial modification in  
289 reproductive behaviour with an extreme egg dumping (Mossman *et al.*, 2019). Overall, both  
290 advanced maternal and paternal ages could have a negative impact on offspring lifetime  
291 reproductive success, which can be exacerbated by the strong positive age assortative mating that  
292 occurs in *A. vulgare*. In our experiment, it was not possible to tease apart the relative contribution  
293 of mother and father ages, notably because trials of mating between cross-aged individuals (e.g.  
294 1-year-old individuals\* 3-year-old individuals) were unsuccessful. Future experiments would  
295 need to investigate the effect of age directly on male or female reproductive traits (e.g. sperm,  
296 oocytes), which could play a key role in shaping reproductive senescence patterns (Fricke &  
297 Koppik, 2019; Monaghan & Metcalfe, 2019). Finally, it is important to notice that the survival of  
298 older individuals does not seem to be linked to their mass in our experiment, which suggests that  
299 the possible selective disappearance of the lightest individuals (in a given age-class) does not  
300 impact our results.

301 Everything else being equal, individuals reaching 3 years of age likely achieve a higher fitness  
302 than short-lived individuals, thanks to the much larger number of eggs produced throughout  
303 lifetime. However, old individuals suffer from a strong reproductive senescence in terms of  
304 offspring quality and why selection did not select for old individuals allocating to offspring  
305 quality rather than to offspring quantity can be seen as paradoxical at the light of some recent  
306 developments in evolutionary biology of aging, which suggest that reproductive senescence  
307 should be absent in indeterminate growing species (Vaupel *et al.*, 2004). However, these results  
308 can largely be explained by classic evolutionary theories of aging: i) the proportion of individuals  
309 reaching 3 years of age in nature (<1%) is far too weak to enable the evolution a new  
310 reproductive tactic (Medawar, 1952), and ii) the selection for the production of a large quantity of  
311 offspring might come at a cost in late life in terms of offspring quality (Williams, 1957). Thus,  
312 our findings have two major implications. First, in the particular case of the woodlouse, these  
313 results run counter to studies carried out so far, which have viewed oldest individuals as playing a  
314 key role in population dynamics through their ability to produce many offspring (Paris & Pitelka,

315 1962; Dangerfield & Hassall, 1992). However, our study does not provide information on the  
316 consequences of reproductive senescence in terms of population dynamics in the wild. While  
317 three-year-old individuals are quite rare (< 1% of a given cohort are reaching 3 years of age) to  
318 be expected to play any detectable role in population dynamics, two-years-old individuals are  
319 more common in in the wild (i.e. 13% of individuals within a given cohort reach this age) and  
320 reproductive senescence in terms of decreased offspring viability we demonstrated in our study  
321 might negatively influence population recruitment (Paris & Pitelka, 1962). To better understand  
322 the influence of reproductive senescence from a quantitative viewpoint, data on age-specific  
323 reproductive success in the wild will be required. Our findings demonstrate that indeterminate  
324 growers are likely to show senescence but through different pathways compared to determinate  
325 growers.

326

## 327 **Bibliography**

328 Anderson, D.R. & Burnham, K.P. 2002. Avoiding Pitfalls When Using Information-Theoretic  
329 Methods. *The Journal of Wildlife Management* **66**: 912.

330 Barks, P.M. & Laird, R.A. 2016. A multigenerational effect of parental age on offspring size but  
331 not fitness in common duckweed (*Lemna minor*). *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* **29**:  
332 748–756.

333 Berger, V., Lemaître, J.-F., Gaillard, J.-M. & Cohas, A. 2015. How do animals optimize the size–  
334 number trade-off when aging? Insights from reproductive senescence patterns in marmots.  
335 *Ecology* **96**: 46–53.

336 Bertram, B.C.R. 2009. Social factors influencing reproduction in wild lions. *Journal of Zoology*  
337 **177**: 463–482.

338 Bock, M.J., Jarvis, G.C., Corey, E.L., Stone, E.E. & Gribble, K.E. 2019. Maternal age alters  
339 offspring lifespan, fitness, and lifespan extension under caloric restriction. *Sci Rep* **9**:  
340 3138.

341 Bouwhuis, S., Charmantier, A., Verhulst, S. & Sheldon, B.C. 2010. Trans-generational effects on  
342 ageing in a wild bird population. *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* **23**: 636–642.

343 Bouwhuis, S., Vedder, O. & Becker, P.H. 2015. Sex-specific pathways of parental age effects on  
344 offspring lifetime reproductive success in a long-lived seabird. *Evolution* **69**: 1760–1771.  
345

346 Brody, M.S., Edgar, M.H. & Lawlor, L.R. 1983. A cost of reproduction in a terrestrial isopod.  
347 *Evolution* **37**: 653–655.

- 348 Clutton-Brock, T.H. 1991. *The evolution of parental care*. Princeton University Press, Princeton,  
349 N.J.
- 350 Crespi, B.J. 1989. Causes of assortative mating in arthropods. *Animal Behaviour* **38**: 980–1000.
- 351 Curley, J.P., Mashoodh, R. & Champagne, F.A. 2011. Epigenetics and the origins of paternal  
352 effects. *Hormones and Behavior* **59**: 306–314.
- 353 Dangerfield, J.M. & Hassall, M. 1992. Phenotypic variation in the breeding phenology of the  
354 woodlouse *Armadillidium vulgare*. *Oecologia* **89**: 140–146.
- 355 Descamps, S., Boutin, S., Berteaux, D. & Gaillard, J.-M. 2008. Age-specific variation in survival,  
356 reproductive success and offspring quality in red squirrels: evidence of senescence. *Oikos*  
357 **117**: 1406–1416.
- 358 Donelson, J., Munday, P., McCormick, M., Pankhurst, N. & Pankhurst, P. 2010. Effects of  
359 elevated water temperature and food availability on the reproductive performance of a  
360 coral reef fish. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* **401**: 233–243.
- 361 Ducatez, S., Baguette, M., Stevens, V.M., Legrand, D. & Fréville, H. 2012. Complex interactions  
362 between paternal and maternal effects: parental experience and age at reproduction affect  
363 fecundity and offspring performance in a butterfly. *Evolution* **66**: 3558–3569.
- 364 Durand, S., Loiseau, V., Prigot, C., Braquart-Varnier, C. & Beltran-Bech, S. 2018. Producing  
365 offspring in *Armadillidium vulgare*: Effects of genetic diversity and inbreeding.  
366 *Evolution & Development* **20**: 65–77.
- 367 Dzyuba, B. 2006. Effect of parental age and associated size on fecundity, growth and survival in  
368 the yellow seahorse *Hippocampus kuda*. *Journal of Experimental Biology* **209**: 3055–  
369 3061.
- 370 Fay, R., Barbraud, C., Delord, K. & Weimerskirch, H. 2016. Paternal but not maternal age  
371 influences early-life performance of offspring in a long-lived seabird. *Proc. R. Soc. B* **283**:  
372 20152318.
- 373 Fox, C.W., Bush, M.L. & Wallin, W.G. 2003. Maternal age affects offspring lifespan of the seed  
374 beetle, *Callosobruchus maculatus*. *Functional ecology* **17**: 811–820.
- 375 Franklin, T.B. & Mansuy, I.M. 2010. Epigenetic inheritance in mammals: Evidence for the  
376 impact of adverse environmental effects. *Neurobiology of Disease* **39**: 61–65.
- 377 Fricke, C. & Koppik, M. 2019. Male reproductive ageing - a tale of the whole ejaculate.  
378 *Reproduction*, doi: 10.1530/REP-18-0579.
- 379 Galipaud, M., Gillingham, M.A.F., David, M. & Dechaume-Moncharmont, F.-X. 2014.  
380 Ecologists overestimate the importance of predictor variables in model averaging: a plea  
381 for cautious interpretations. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* **5**: 983–991.

- 382 Geister, T.L., Lorenz, M.W., Meyering-Vos, M., Hoffmann, Klaus.H. & Fischer, K. 2008. Effects  
383 of temperature on reproductive output, egg provisioning, juvenile hormone and  
384 vitellogenin titres in the butterfly *Bicyclus anynana*. *Journal of Insect Physiology* **54**:  
385 1253–1260.
- 386 Golden, T.R., Hinerfeld, D.A. & Melov, S. 2002. Oxidative stress and aging: beyond correlation:  
387 Oxidative stress and aging: beyond correlation, T. R. Golden et al. *Aging Cell* **1**: 117–123.
- 388 Guillaumet-Adkins, A., Yañez, Y., Peris-Diaz, M.D., Calabria, I., Palanca-Ballester, C. &  
389 Sandoval, J. 2017. Epigenetics and oxidative stress in aging. *Oxidative Medicine and*  
390 *Cellular Longevity* **2017**: 1–8.
- 391 Hurlbert, S.H. 1984. Pseudoreplication and the design of ecological field experiments. *Ecological*  
392 *Monographs* **54**: 187-211.
- 393 Ivimey-Cook, E. & Moorad, J. 2018. Disentangling pre- and postnatal maternal age effects on  
394 offspring performance in an insect with elaborate maternal care. *The American Naturalist*  
395 **192**: 564–576.
- 396 Johnson, S.L. & Gemmill, N.J. 2012. Are old males still good males and can females tell the  
397 difference? *BioEssays* **34**: 609–619.
- 398 Jones, O.R., Scheuerlein, A., Salguero-Gómez, R., Camarda, C.G., Schaible, R., Casper, B.B., *et*  
399 *al.* 2014. Diversity of ageing across the tree of life. *Nature* **505**: 169–173.
- 400 Jones, O.R. & Vaupel, J.W. 2017. Senescence is not inevitable. *Biogerontology* **18**: 965–971.
- 401 Lansing, A.I. 1947. A transmissible, cumulative, and reversible factor in aging. *J Gerontol* **2**:  
402 228–239.
- 403 Lardies, M.A., Cotoras, I.S. & Bozinovic, F. 2004. The energetics of reproduction and parental  
404 care in the terrestrial isopod *Porcellio laevis*. *Journal of Insect Physiology* **50**: 1127–1135.
- 405 Lecomte, V.J., Sorci, G., Cornet, S., Jaeger, A., Faivre, B., Arnoux, E., *et al.* 2010. Patterns of  
406 aging in the long-lived wandering albatross. *Proceedings of the National Academy of*  
407 *Sciences* **107**: 6370–6375.
- 408 Lefebvre, F., Richard, F.-J., Moreau, J., Rigaud, T. & Caubet, Y. 2019. Mass drives mating  
409 success in *Armadillidium vulgare* (Crustacea, Oniscidea). *Behavioural Processes* **168**:  
410 103944.
- 411 Lemaître, J.-F. & Gaillard, J.-M. 2017. Reproductive senescence: new perspectives in the wild.  
412 *Biological Reviews*.
- 413 Lippens, C., Faivre, B., Lechenault, C. & Sorci, G. 2017. Aging parasites produce offspring with  
414 poor fitness prospects. *Biology Letters* **13**: 20160888.
- 415 Medawar, P.B. 1952. *An unsolved problem of biology*. College.

- 416 Monaghan, P. & Metcalfe, N.B. 2019. The deteriorating soma and the indispensable germline:  
417 gamete senescence and offspring fitness. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological*  
418 *Sciences* **286**: 20192187.
- 419 Mossman, J.A., Mabeza, R.M.S., Blake, E., Mehta, N. & Rand, D.M. 2019. Age of both parents  
420 influences reproduction and egg dumping behavior in *Drosophila melanogaster*. *Journal*  
421 *of Heredity* **110**: 300–309.
- 422 Mousseau, T. 1998. The adaptive significance of maternal effects. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*  
423 **13**: 403–407.
- 424 Njajou, O.T., Cawthon, R.M., Damcott, C.M., Wu, S.-H., Ott, S., Garant, M.J., *et al.* 2007.  
425 Telomere length is paternally inherited and is associated with parental lifespan.  
426 *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* **104**: 12135–12139.
- 427 Nussey, D.H., Coulson, T., Festa-Bianchet, M. & Gaillard, J.-M. 2008. Measuring senescence in  
428 wild animal populations: towards a longitudinal approach. *Functional Ecology* **22**: 393–  
429 406.
- 430 Nussey, D.H., Froy, H., Lemaitre, J.-F., Gaillard, J.-M. & Austad, S.N. 2013. Senescence in  
431 natural populations of animals: widespread evidence and its implications for bio-  
432 gerontology. *Ageing research reviews* **12**: 214–225.
- 433 Packer, C., Tatar, M. & Collins, A. 1998. Reproductive cessation in female mammals. *Nature*  
434 **392**: 807–811.
- 435 Paris, O.H. & Pitelka, F.A. 1962. Population characteristics of the terrestrial isopod  
436 *Armadillidium vulgare* in California grassland. *Ecology* **43**: 229–248.
- 437 Priest, N.K., Mackowiak, B. & Promislow, D.E.L. 2002. The role of parental age effects on the  
438 evolution of aging. *Evolution* **56**: 927–935.
- 439 Priest, N.K., Roach, D.A. & Galloway, L.F. 2008. Cross-generational fitness benefits of mating  
440 and male seminal fluid. *Biology Letters* **4**: 6–8.
- 441 Reichert, S., Berger, V., Jackson, J., Chapman, S.N., Htut, W., Mar, K.U., *et al.* 2019. Maternal  
442 age at birth shapes offspring life history trajectory across generations in long lived Asian  
443 elephants. *Journal of Animal Ecology*, doi: 10.1111/1365-2656.13049.
- 444 Schroeder, J., Nakagawa, S., Rees, M., Mannarelli, M.-E. & Burke, T. 2015. Reduced fitness in  
445 progeny from old parents in a natural population. *Proceedings of the National Academy of*  
446 *Sciences* **112**: 4021–4025.
- 447 Schwanz, L.E. 2008. Chronic parasitic infection alters reproductive output in deer mice.  
448 *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* **62**: 1351–1358.
- 449 Sharp, S.P. & Clutton-Brock, T.H. 2010. Reproductive senescence in a cooperatively breeding  
450 mammal. *Journal of Animal Ecology* **79**: 176–183.

- 451 Skogland, T. 1988. Tooth wear by food limitation and its life history consequences in wild  
452 reindeer. *Oikos* **51**: 238.
- 453 Surbida, K. & Wright, J.C. 2001. Embryo tolerance and maternal control of the marsupial  
454 environment in *Armadillidium vulgare* (Isopoda: Oniscidea). *Physiological and*  
455 *Biochemical Zoology* **74**: 894–906.
- 456 Tabata, J. & Teshiba, M. 2018. Sexual attractiveness and reproductive performance in ageing  
457 females of a coccoid insect. *Biology Letters* **14**: 20180262.
- 458 Tidière, M., Thevenot, X., Deligiannopoulou, A., Douay, G., Whipple, M., Siberchicot, A., *et al.*  
459 2018. Maternal reproductive senescence shapes the fitness consequences of the parental  
460 age difference in ruffed lemurs. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*  
461 **285**: 20181479.
- 462 Vallin, L. & Nissling, A. 2000. Maternal effects on egg size and egg buoyancy of Baltic cod,  
463 *Gadus morhua*. *Fisheries Research* **49**: 21–37.
- 464 Vaupel, J., Baudisch, A., Dölling, M., A. Roach, D. & Gampe, J. 2004. The case for negative  
465 senescence. *Theoretical Population Biology* **65**: 339–351.
- 466 Venturelli, P.A., Shuter, B.J. & Murphy, C.A. 2009. Evidence for harvest-induced maternal  
467 influences on the reproductive rates of fish populations. *Proc. R. Soc. B* **276**: 919–924.
- 468 Williams, G.C. 1957. Pleiotropy, natural selection, and the evolution of senescence. *Evolution* **11**:  
469 398–411.
- 470 Wong, J.W.Y., Meunier, J. & Kölliker, M. 2013. The evolution of parental care in insects: the  
471 roles of ecology, life history and the social environment: The evolution of parental care in  
472 insects. *Ecological Entomology* **38**: 123–137.

473

474

475 Figure's Captions

476

477 Figure 1: Experimental Design.

478

479 Figure 2: Breeding rate according to individual's age.

480

481 Figure 3: Number (A) and Mass (B) of offspring per clutch according to their parent's age.

482 The thick line depicts the median, the box the interquartile range, and the whisker are bounded to  
483 the most extreme data point within 1.5 the interquartile range. The outliers outside this range are  
484 displayed as open circles. \*\* means  $p < 0.01$ .

485

486 Figure 4: Offspring survival according to their parent's age.

487 Mean proportion of offspring surviving (+/- bootstrapped 95% confidence interval) at 5 months  
488 of age, 12 months of age, and 18 months of age. Each data point corresponds to one clutch and  
489 was plotted as grey dots with a slight jitter added to distinguish adjacent points.

490

491 Figure 5: Graphical display of the interactive effect of offspring sex and parental age on offspring  
492 reproductive success.

493

494

495

496