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#### **Responses of the copepod** *Eurytemora affinis* **to trace metal exposure: a**

#### **candidate for sentinel to marine sediment resuspension effects**

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#### **Highlights-**

1. *E. affinis* can be used as a sentinel to sediment resuspension from pelagic community.

2. In 96 h, 38 % higher mortality was observed from polluted sediment (PS).

3. *E. affinis* bioaccumulated higher concentration of trace metals from PS.

- 4. Dissolved trace metal caused higher mortality than sediment resuspension.
- 5. Specific responses to polluted sediment resuspension was noted in *E. affinis*.

#### **Abstract**-

 Our study reports the ability of *Eurytemora affinis* to indicate certain responses in 96h when exposed to resuspended sediment from a polluted site (PS, Seine estuary, France), less polluted site (LPS, Canche estuary, France) and dissolved trace metals. Mortality from 20 dissolved trace metal was highest  $(57.5\%)$  followed by PS  $(38.59\%) > LPS$   $(24.04\%)$ . The 21 exposure to PS sediment resulted in significantly lower no. of early larval stage (nauplii  $\leq$  2), sex-ratio (39.24% of males) and higher ovigerous female (>10). *Eurytemora affinis* bioaccumulated high concentrations of Copper (27.3 mg/kg), Nickel (12.8 mg/kg), Lead (21.8 mg/kg) and Arsenic (13.7 mg/kg) from PS exposure with significantly lower



coastal constructions built for human exigencies. In such domains, collectively

increasing with the escalating industries coupled with the extensive dredging and

 both the SPM and toxic substances have been reported to exhibit high mortality, reduced body size, and affect the egg production in many pelagic to epi-benthic species in the ecosystem (Sew et al., 2018; Das et al., 2020a). Although such toxicological surveys are high on demand and are important, it is equally very challenging to assess the toxicity of sediment resuspension to nearby organisms and as a consequence only few literatures are available on this issue.

 The Seine estuary is one such tidal flat that has been categorized as a zone with a high sediment resuspension due to fabrication of dykes on both sides of the channel aiding the local residents (Lafite and Romaña, 2001). Previous works described how such constructions reduced the tidal flat area and how its distinct morphology in the turbidity zone is impacted by huge resuspension from rivers, semidiurnal tides, flood and ebb tide current along with waves approaching from the Bay of Seine; highlighting the typical characteristics of this estuary (Allen et al., 1980; Avoine et al., 1981; Le Hir et al., 2001; Deloffre et al., 2005, 2006). On the other hand, Seine estuary is also an industrial site with loads of contaminants prevailing in that area, practicing commercial pursuits for over decades (Cailleaud et al., 2007; Minier et al., 2006; Dauvin et al., 2008; Ouddane et al., 2018, Zidour et al., 2019; Das et al., 2020a). Such toxic exposures embedded in the sediment are often bioaccumulated by a range of pelagic and benthic organisms which gets biomagnified into tertiary organisms posing serious threats to human life (Kerambrun et al., 2013, Kadiene et al., 2019 a, b; Zidour et al., 2019; Das et al., 2020a; Dayras et al., 2020). Hence, in such domains with strong resuspension of sediments and prevalence of contaminants, new tools and indicators should be explored to assess the health of the area (Cailleaud et al., 2009, 2010; Kerambrun et al., 2013; Sew et al., 2018; Das et al., 2020a).

 In ecotoxicology, the use of a dominant species in the form of a biological tool known as bio-indicator species has often proved to be an advantage to examine the heath of the ecosystem (Parmar et al., 2016; Farias et al., 2018; Chiarelli et al., 2019; Das et al., 2019; Navon et al., 2020). Such organisms offer flexibility to culture them in laboratories and often show quick responses from the changing habitat (Kwok et al., 2015; Souissi and Soussi, 2021). Pelagic copepods have been widely used in such assays by the exposure to dissolved toxicity, but not as often to resuspended sediments. *Eurytemora affinis* is one such bioindicator species of copepod that has endorsed its role in many studies that reported its varied responses to a wide range of toxicants like, trace metals, organic pollutants, hydrophobic compounds, etc. in acute and multigenerational exposure (Cailleaud et al., 2007, 2009; Kadiene et al., 2019 a, b; Zidour et al., 2019; Das et al., 2020a). However, a thorough assessment to report the response to sediment resuspension is still in progress and the need of a sentinel species from the pelagic community in response to resuspended sediment is however necessary especially near the industrial and commercial sites, such as the Seine estuary. Previous studies reported that *Eurytemora affinis*, on a larval assay has shown a sensitivity to sediment bound hydrophobic compounds in a short-term toxicological experiment (Lesueur et al., 2015). In the previous studies, experimental approaches using extracts or elutriates of contaminants from the sediment has been used to report the toxicity embedded in to the sediment column (Leseur et al., 2013, 2015; Buttino et al., 2018). Our previous study was the first documentation on the direct resuspension of Seine estuarine sediment and its effect on the intergenerational exposure to *E. affinis* (Das et al., 2020a). It highlights the adaptations and the vulnerability induced from one generation to the next reporting the different

 indicators of stress from sediment resuspension and dissolved trace metal (Das et al., 2020a). Hence, in this study our primary objective was to detect the quick responses of *E. affinis* through a 96 h exposure to anthropogenic resuspended sediment.

 For such indications, a comparison of the effect of a polluted area and sediment from an unpolluted area (reference) with lower prevalence of contaminants, have often proved necessary to comprehend the specific indicators of toxicity (Tackx et al., 2003; Amara et al., 2007; Gillet et al., 2008; Mouneyrac et al., 2008; Kerambrun et al., 2013). Therefore, another objective of this study was to implement an inter-site comparison between Seine estuary and a relatively less polluted area. Previous works on such comparisons between nearby estuaries in Northern France has often marked the Canche estuary with proportionately lower commercial activities, industries, human impact, and considerably a low prevalence of pollutants by using it as a reference sediment (Henry et al., 2004, 2012; Amara et al., 2007; Kerambrun et al., 2013). Such studies also mentioned the absence of a proper reference site in Northern France with significantly lower toxicants as nearly all the estuaries are being polluted from the adjacent manufacturing and/or industries, with the influence of urban pollution. Hence, in this study we used sediment from the Canche estuary and referred it as a less polluted site (LPS) comparing it with Seine estuarine sediment referred as a polluted site (PS). In parallel, with the sediment resuspension, the effect of dissolved exposure comprising of a cocktail with non-essential trace metals was observed. The effect of a combined exposure of both essential and non-essential trace metals have already been discussed in few studies that had posed a negative effect on the population density and mortality of *E. affinis* (Zidour et al., 2019;

 Kadiene et al., 2019b; Das et al., 2020a). Therefore, in this study we only used the non-essential and ubiquitous trace metals in mixture comprising of Arsenic (As V), Cadmium (Cd) and Lead (Pb) due to their high toxicity and presence in the Seine estuary (Kerambrun et al., 2013) in dissolved form.

- Hence, our study comprised of a control, dissolved trace metal exposure (TM), sediment resuspension from a less polluted site (LPS, Canche estuary) and a 132 polluted site (PS, Seine estuary).
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#### **2. Material and methods**

## **2.1 Sediment sampling**

 The two stations for collecting the sediment samples were chosen with an aim to compare the effect of a less polluted (LPS, Fig 1. A) and polluted resuspension of sediment (PS, Fig. 1B) on *E. affinis*. The Seine estuarine sediment sample was collected towards the foreshore of the northern tidal-flat closer to the Normandy 140 Bridge (49°26'33.762"N; 0°16'8.475"E). On the other hand, the estuary of Canche often classified as a Picard estuary located in the northwestern region of France, was accounted as LPS and a reference site in this study (Henry et al., 2004, 2012; Kerambrun et al., 2013). The sediment samples in Canche was collected near the 144 south shore, closer to the mouth of the estuary in the intertidal area  $(50°32'16.26"N;$ º 35'34.02"E).

 A basic grain size analysis was executed by using the Wentworth grade scale after passing through the sieves of different size fractions (Das et al., 2017). The 148 Seine estuarine sediment was categorized as a very fine sand to silt (phi scale  $>4$ , grain size < 0.125 mm) and the Canche estuarine sediment showed a medium sand to fine sand texture (phi scale 2- 3, grain size between 0.062-0.031 mm).



 **Fig. 1.** Map of the sampling area, where, A shows the Canche estuary and B shows the Seine estuary.

### **2.2 Culturing of copepod** *Eurytemora affinis*

 The culture of *Eurytemora affinis* was initiated two months before the start of the experiment in a clean 300 L culture tank for a thorough acclimation. The copepods were collected from the mass cultures of our laboratory that are maintained for about two decades. The entire culturing process for this study was 160 maintained under controlled conditions (salinity with  $18^{\circ}$  C ambient temperature and a light/dark cycle of 12h: 12h) and the red alga *Rhodomonas salina* was used as a feed to the copepods (Souissi et al., 2016 a, b; Michalec et al., 2017; Das et al., 2020a).

#### **2.3 Experimental approach**

 The exposure of copepods to different conditions - sediment resuspension from 167 LPS, PS, TM  $(Cd + Pb + As)$  and control was done in 10 L beakers (8.5 L seawater, for ease of handling) to ensure a higher quantity especially for analyzing the trace metal concentrations from each replicate (Zidour et al., 2019 and Dayras 170 et al., 2020). The entire exposure was held in controlled temperature ( $18 \pm 2^{0}$  C), light/dark cycle and salinity, similar to the culture conditions with constant resuspension and circulation inside the beakers for a nearly symmetrical exposure of the contents of each treatment to *E. affinis*. The constant resuspension was obtained by air bubbles through long glass pipettes generated from an air pump. Two long glass pipettes from opposite sides were inserted inside the 10L beaker that reached the bottom where the sediment settled from time to time and thereafter got resuspended into the water column with the air bubbling. The sediment exposure and concentration (1/2 10% LC50) from LPS and PS was done by following Das et al. 2020a. In the trace metal mixture, only non-essential trace 180 metals  $(Cd + Pb + As)$  were dissolved according to their respective LC 50 %, 181 when exposed to *E. affinis*. The 10% LC50% of Cd, Pb and As was 10.88  $\mu$ g/L, 41.31 µg/Land 44.9 µg/L respectively as reported by Zidour et al., 2019 and Das et al., 2020a, 2022 (reported from the same mass cultures of our laboratory).

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#### **2.3.1 Population structure of** *E. affinis*

 Before starting the exposure at T0h, the population density in our mass culture was analysed and the same density of *E. affinis* was introduced in each 8.5 L beaker for a period of 96h. After T96h, the 8.5 L beaker contents in each treatment



 The trace metal analyses for the sediment and copepod samples were performed by using an inductive coupled plasma quadrupole mass spectrometer (ICP-MS) (ICP-MS 7900, Agilent Technologies, United States) following the same procedure described in Das et al., 2020a. Copepods (approximately 6000 individuals, with a dry weight of 50-60 mg on an average in 8L volume) from our culture that were well acclimated for months was collected on membrane filters

 (0.45 µm) before the start of the exposure, at time 0 hours (T0h) in order to analyze the trace metal concentration. Similarly, after sampling from both the stations, sediment was collected on filters and dried in order to measure the trace metal concentration at T0h before the exposure. After 96 hours (T96h) of exposure, samples of sediment and copepod (in 8 L) were again collected from each treatment and replicate to measure the final trace metal concentration bio- accumulated in sediment and exposed *E. affinis* at T96h. The trace metal concentration in the dissolved trace metal mixture treatment and the residual water from all the treatments were analyzed by collecting the water samples in 15ml 222 falcon tubes fixed with  $15 \mu L$  of ultrapure Nitric acid (HNO<sub>3</sub>). All the measurement of elemental standards as well as the procedures for quality maintenance were executed by following Das et al., 2020a, 2021.

#### **2.5 Statistical analysis**

 The statistical analyses for the comparison of all the parameters between the treatments was executed by performing the analysis of variance (ANOVA) along with Tukey multiple comparisons of means (family-wise confidence level of 95% or less), on meeting the required criteria for the analysis. To perform ANOVA, a test for normality using a Shapiro Wilk normality test was done and to test the homogeneity of variance a Levene's test was done. All the analyses were executed by using R studio (4.0.4). The conditions of testing ANOVA were satisfied and no alternative non-parametric test was performed.

#### **3. Results**

#### **3.1 Population density and stages of** *Eurytemora affinis*







 **Fig. 2.** Comparison of the stages of copepod and the total population of the copepod from culture at T0h and all the treatments [control, less polluted sediment (LPS), polluted sediment (PS) and dissolved trace metal (TM)] after 96h (T96h) of exposure. The total population is plotted on the secondary axis. The error bar shows the standard deviation between the three replicates in each treatment. The letters a, b, c, denotes the significant differences in each treatment within one stage of *E. affinis*.

#### **3.2 Mortality and sex-ratio (% of males)**

 The mortality % in control (10.4%) was significantly lower than the other treatments (Fig.3). LPS showed the lowest mortality (24 %) within the exposed treatments (both dissolved and resuspended sediment), followed by PS (38.5%) with dissolved TM showing significantly the highest mortality (57.5 %). In the right panel of Fig.3, The PS treatment showed significantly lower sex-ratio (39.2% of males) than the other treatments. The LPS treatment  showed lower sex-ratio (52.73 % of males) than control (57.2%) and dissolved TM (57.6%). The sex- ratio (% of males) of *E. affinis* at T0h from the mass cultures was in the same range as the control (57.67%).



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 **Fig. 3.** (Left side) showing the mortality % in all the treatments with significant differences in each treatment marked by different letters (x, y, z, w). (Right side) showing the sex-ratio (% of males) in all the treatments with significant differences in each treatment marked by 284 different letters  $(x, y, z, w)$  at p <0.05. The error bar shows the standard deviation between the three replicates in each treatment.

#### **3.3 Trace metal concentration**

 The total concentration of As (29.5 mg/kg), Cd (3.4 mg/kg) and Pb (26.8 mg/kg) bioaccumulated by *E. affinis* was significantly higher in dissolved TM than in control [ As (0.75 mg/kg), Cd (0.68 mg/kg), Pb (3.34 mg/kg)], LPS [As (3.26 mg/kg), Cd (0.63 mg/kg), Pb (8.15 mg/kg)], and PS [As (13.7 mg/kg), Cd (1.88 mg/kg), Pb (21.81 mg/kg)], however the concentration of Pb had no significant difference between PS (21.81 mg/kg) and TM (26.8 mg/kg) after 96h of exposure





 **Fig. 4.** Trace metal concentrations bio-accumulated in *E. affinis* after 96 hours of exposure (T96h) from control, less polluted sediment (LPS), polluted sediment (PS), and dissolved

 trace metal (TM). The error bar shows the standard deviation between the three replicates in each treatment. The letters a, b, c denote the significant difference between the trace metals in one single treatment and the letters x, y, z denote the significant differences between the treatments in a single trace metal.

#### **3.4 Bioconcentration factor of trace metals**

 The BCF analyzed in *E. affinis* exposed from the sediment resuspension of PS was higher than LPS for all the trace metals, however being statistically significant in case of Ni [PS (7.21), LPS (2.83)] and Cu [PS (8.59), LPS (3.21)] (Fig. 5). The BCF of dissolved trace metal mixture is enclosed in the supplementary info (Fig.1 S).



 **Fig. 5.**The bio-concentration factor (BCF) in *E. affinis* exposed to the sediment resuspension (LPS and PS) treatments. The letters a, b denote the significant differences between the trace metal in one treatment; letter x, y denote significant differences between each treatment for a

322 single trace metal,  $p < 0.05$ . The error bar shows the standard deviation between the three replicates in each treatment.

**4. Discussion**

#### **4.1 Life cycle traits of** *Eurytemora affinis*

 Comparison of toxicity from different matrices remains crucial to comprehend the mechanisms adapted by bioindicator organisms that are prevalent in nature. *Eurytemora affinis* has conveyed many such adaptive mechanisms to toxicity through its life cycle traits although mostly in studies with respect to dissolved toxicity in an artificially contaminant spiked exposure (Legrand et al., 2016; Kadiene et al., 2017; Kadiene et al., 2019 b; Zidour et al., 2019; Choi et al., 2021). Zidour et al. (2019) reported that a combination of trace metal exposed from the dissolved phase decreases the population density of *E. affinis* in a 96 hour exposure. In some studies, an acute and chronic toxicological exposure of trace metals from the dissolved phase and dietary pathway to copepod species like *Pseudodiaptomas annandalei* and *Paracyclopina nana* affected the population growth, developmental stages with sex specific responses (males more affected than females related to differentially expressed genes) highlighting the differences of toxicity originating from varied pathways (Kadiene et al., 2019, 2020, Dayras et al., 2020). These observations was similar to our finding, where in a 96 h of exposure to dissolved trace metal mixture, the population density of *E. affinis*  significantly reduced with a significant increase in mortality, further affecting all the stages of the copepod. Studies comparing exposure from diverse matrices like sediment resuspension, sediment elutriates, dissolved phases are considerably less, with only few literature reporting the effect of pollutants originating from dietary pathways, whole resuspended sediment and also from elutriates of natural

- sediments (Lesueur et al., 2013; 2015, Charry et al., 2018; Buttino et al., 2018; Kadiene et al., 2019a, Das et al., 2020a).
- In this study we found that the dissolved trace metals posed more adverse effect on the population density (T96h) of *E. affinis* than the indirect exposure of resuspended sediments. This observation was similar to our previous study where an intergenerational exposure to trace metals from sediment resuspension (Seine estuary) showed higher population density after the second generation of exposure and a higher recovery in the non-exposed generation when compared to trace metal exposure in dissolved form (Das et al., 2020a). Such similar observations reflect on the plasticity and the quick responses that is generated by *E. affinis* when exposed to resuspended anthropogenic sediment.
- Furthermore, in some previous studies a lower number of nauplii was observed when exposed to sediment bound contaminants and Perez-Landa and Simpson (2011) reported higher sensitivity of nauplii to sediment exposure than dissolved toxic compounds (Fleeger and Lotufo, 1999; Kovatch et al., 1999; Chandler and Green, 2001; Spadaro et al., 2008; Perez-Landa and Simpson, 2011; Das et al., 2020a). This study also reports a similar trend of lower no. of nauplii in the sediment exposed treatments (PS, significantly lower and LPS not significantly lower) in the *E. affinis* population just after 96 hours of exposure. In parallel to lower no. of nauplii we observed a significantly higher no. of ovigerous females remaining in the PS treatment (Seine estuary) after 96 hour of exposure, which in the previous studies have been indicated as an effect of endocrine disruptors that is prevalent in the Seine estuarine sediment and is often reported to cause imbalances in hormones and reproduction, affecting the hatching success rate and impeding the embryonic development (Spadaro et al., 2008; Cailleaud et al., 2010;

 Perez-Landa and Simpson, 2011; Das et al., 2020a). Along with the lower no. of nauplii we report that sex-ratio (% of males) was another biomarker specifically observed in the resuspended sediment exposure from Seine estuary (PS) that showed significantly lower sex-ratio (% of males) than that of control, and dissolved trace metals. This observation was consistent in our previous study on intergenerational exposure and also the present study on a 96 hour exposure, which further substantiates the presence of sex steroids in the seine estuarine sediment as reported in previous works (Cailleaud et al., 2007, 2009, and 2010). Another hypothesis for a lower sex-ratio (% of males) in the resuspended sediment exposed treatments is the sex specific mortality in *E. affinis* along with the varied pathways and also gender specific bioaccumulation of trace metals as reported in previous studies from our group, working with the same mass culture in our laboratory (Kadiene et al., 2017, 2019a). Hence, sediment resuspension and dissolved toxicity when compared based on the life cycle traits possess varied responses (supplementary info Table. 3S), of which, few are specific to particular pathway of contamination and *E. affinis* features its suitability to be used as an indicator in such toxicological assays (Cailleaud et al., 2009, 2010; Lee et al., 2018; Kadiene et al., 2019 b; Zidour et al., 2019, Das et al., 2020a).

 We report that sediment resuspension from the reference site of Canche estuary (LPS) caused lower mortality, with higher population density of *E. affinis* after 96 h of exposure when compared to PS. Although studies on pelagic copepod comparing the effect of reference and polluted sediment resuspension is scarce, a similar observation was noted in a population of juvenile European flounder, where Canche estuary comprised of healthier individuals than Seine, Scheldt and Loire estuaries analyzed based on Fulton's K condition index (Suthers, 2000;

 Kerambrun et al., 2013). In addition, a study comparing the influence of coastal pollution in the Seine and Authie estuaries (Authie estuary is situated in the same coast as Canche, approximately 20 km south) when exposed to a benthic indicator, *Hediste diversicolor*, reported that due to the higher pollution in the Seine with reference to chemical contaminants, the population of *H. diversicolor* was significantly lower than that of the Authie estuary (Gillet et al., 2008). In this study, we also highlight the difference in sediment grain sizes in Canche estuary (medium to fine sand) and the Seine (very fine sand to silt) with reference to the sediment toxicity. Previous studies reported that finer sediments often tend to adsorb higher amount of chemical contaminants like trace metals, organic hydrophobic compounds, etc., than coarse sediment particles (Mao et al., 2019; Das et al., 2020b; Vane et al., 2020). Our study also reports the same observation where the Seine estuarine sediment comprised of finer grain sizes with higher amount of trace metals than the Canche estuary characterizing a sandy grain size with lower aggregates of contaminants. The above observations further highlight the need for the comparison of numerous matrices of toxicity and the consideration of different levels of contamination existing in several estuaries for developing new tools to evaluate the health of the ecosystem.

#### **4.2 Bioaccumulation of trace metals**

 The bioaccumulation of trace metals in *E. affinis* has been studied from the sediment resuspended toxicity (LPS and PS), from the dissolved toxicity, and control treatment at 0h and after 96h of exposure. Our results show that Seine estuarine sediment [As (10.49 mg/kg), Ba (16.1 mg/kg), Mn (45.2 mg/kg), Cu (13.83 mg/kg), Zn (56.1 mg/kg)] including the seawater analysed after

 resuspension, comprised of higher trace metals than Canche sediment [As (2.48 mg/kg), Ba (9.9 mg/kg), Mn (15.8 mg/kg), Cu (5.62 mg/kg), Zn (25.7 mg/kg)] (Table 1S, and Table 2S, supplementary info) as reported in previous studies comparing the two sites (Gilliers et al., 2006; Amara et al., 2007; Kerambrun et al., 2013; Francescangeli et al., 2020). Meybeck et al. (2007) widely discussed the significance of metal contamination in the Seine estuary from 1930 that posed a notable concern for the prevalence of high concentration of toxic compounds for decades. In 2013, another study on the trace metal concentration of Seine estuary reported that none of the metals detected had surpassed the ERL (Effect Range Low) guideline other than mercury (Hg) (Kerambrun et al., 2013). Our study reports a similar range of trace metal concentration reported in previous works, for both the Canche and Seine estuarine sediment (Negrel, 1997; Gilliers et al., 2006; Amara et al., 2007; Kerambrun et al., 2013). A recent article on comparison of coastal pollution in different harbours and estuaries in Northern France, reports a high total organic carbon (1- 3.5) % and no significant trace metal contamination (analysed using enrichment factor (EF <3 for Co, Cu, Fe, Mn, Vn and Zn) prevailing in the sediment at the Canche estuary (Birth, 2003; Francescangeli et al., 2020). Similar to the above finding we report that exposure to Canche estuarine sediment caused a significantly lower mortality of *E. affinis* than those exposed to Seine estuarine sediment, even when the exposed sediment concentration were same for both the estuaries. In comparison between the three exposed treatments (LPS, PS and TM), dissolved TM treatment showed significantly higher As (29.5 mg/kg) and Cd (3.4 mg/kg) concentration bioaccumulated by *E. affinis*, when compared to other treatments, reflecting on the higher adversity from dissolved toxicity in comparison to indirect exposure of

 trace metals resuspended through sediment exposure. This phenomena was similar with our previous findings along with some other studies that focused on various matrices of contamination, reporting higher ability of bioaccumulation of contaminants from dissolved phase when compared to dietary pathways or sediment resuspension (Kadiene et al., 2019a, b; Das et al., 2020a; Dayras et al., 2020). The inter-site comparison of sediment exposure (LPS and PS), showed significantly higher accumulation of As (13.7 mg/kg), Cu (27.2 mg/kg) and Pb (21.8 mg/kg) from PS sediment when compared to the LPS sediment [As (3.26 mg/kg), Cu (13.29 mg/kg), Pb (8.15 mg/kg)].Pb (21.8 mg/kg) and Ni (12.8 mg/kg) accumulation from the Seine estuary almost reached the range of 10% LC50 457 [sublethal concentration; Pb  $(10\%$ LC50% = 41.3 mg/kg); Ni  $(10\%$ LC50% = 12.55 mg/kg)] of *E. affinis* marking the negative impact of higher prevalence of trace metals in the Seine sediment column, and the chances of their uptake by nearby organisms through resuspension causing significantly higher mortality than low polluted quarters (like, LPS). In addition, the Cu accumulation by *E. affinis* from the PS sediment exposure was even more toxic than Pb and Ni, as it reached the similar range of the lethal concentration (LC 50% Cu- 33.5 g/L) of *E. affinis* in just 96 hours of exposure (Zidour et al., 2019). Similar to our results, in a comparison with the nearby tidal flats, Scheldt estuary was reported to contain varied trace metals (Ag, As, Cd, Cr Co, Zn, and many others) in concentrations similar to the range present in the Seine and the Loire estuaries, further reporting a high risk of Arsenic in the edible seafood like shrimps (Kerambrun et al., 2013; Van Ael et al., 2017). Likewise, our study highlights the capacity of *E. affinis* to significantly bioaccumulate trace metals like Cu, Pb, As, and Ni in concentrations that are sub lethal to lethal from the resuspension of Seine estuarine sediment

 indicating the chances of biomagnification of trace metals in higher trophic organisms. Van Ael et al. (2017) further discussed about the importance of studying the bioavailability of trace metals from sediment column and bioaccumulation by inhabiting organisms along with the importance of considering several matrices of contamination that helps us to better assess the aspects concerning pollution of a particular area (Culioli et al., 2009; Van Campenhout et al., 2009). In this study we considered the bioaccumulation along with the bioconcentration factor of trace metals by *E. affinis* that was reported to 480 be significantly higher from the dissolved combined TM treatment ( $> 2000$ ) than the resuspended sediment exposure, similar to our previous study (Das et al., 2020a). The sediment exposure to *E. affinis* showed some specific markers in this study in just a 96h exposure, although most significant indicators were found in case of Seine sediment exposure than that of Canche sediment. This observation was due to the contaminants that are prevalent in the Seine sediment, and previous works have reported the presence of a range of organic pollutants, endocrine disruptors, sex steroids apart from the trace metals that implied certain significant responses in the Seine sediment resuspension treatment like the lower no. of nauplii, shift in the sex-ratio with less % of male with respect to females, population density along with higher mortality of *E. affinis* in this study (Cailleaud et al., 2007, 2009, 2010; Kinani et al., 2010; Gerbron et al., 2014; Das et al., 2020a; Arcanjo et al., 2021). On the other hand, the exposure of the Canche sediment did not significantly affect the sex-ratio (% of males) and the no. of nauplii in *E. affinis*, presumably due to the lower concentration of contaminants in this estuary as reported in previous studies (Evrard et al., 2010; Kerambrun et al., 2013; Van Ael et al., 2017; Francescangeli et al., 2020). The responses from the

 different matrices of toxic exposure has been documented in a table (Table. 3S) in the supplementary info, listing all the treatments and parameters analyzed in this study.

#### **5. Conclusion**

 This study shows the responses of *E. affinis* in a 96h exposure from different matrices of contamination. In a 96-hour assay, the population of *E. affinis* showed 38% higher mortality from the Seine sediment (PS) when compared to the low polluted site (LPS, Canche estuary). Apart from significantly higher mortality%, the population of *E. affinis* exposed to PS had lower no. of nauplii and higher no. of ovigerous female, reflecting a low hatching success and delayed embryonic development, due to the presence of a wide variety of contaminants in the Seine. The exposure to Seine sediment also significantly altered the sex-ratio (% of males) when compared to other treatments like the low polluted sediment resuspension and the dissolved toxicity.

512 The dissolved non-essential trace metal treatment  $(As + Cd + Pb)$  induced the highest mortality and the bioconcentration factor. Although the trace metals mixture treatment showed a higher bioaccumulation in *E. affinis*, trace metals accumulated by *E. affinis* from the Seine sediment almost reached similar values for the concentration of Pb. The most remarkable aspect is the ability of *E. affinis* to bioaccumulate trace metals (Cu, Ni, As) in just 96 hours reaching concentrations that are lethal to sub lethal from resuspension of sediment and bio- indicating certain responses that corroborate its role as a Sentinel to sediment resuspension. The specific indicators from the sediment resuspension can further be utilised in other studies for a deeper understanding of the stress in  anthropogenic domains dominated with high resuspension of sediments, naturally or due to human activities like dredging and coastal fabrications for human motive. This study provides important tools to compare toxicity of sediment resuspension from different estuaries all around the globe with varying levels of contamination.

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