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

2 candidate for sentinel to marine sediment resuspension effects

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9 Highlights-

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

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

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

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

17 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 18 polluted site (LPS, Canche estuary, France) and dissolved trace metals. Mortality from 19 20 dissolved trace metal was highest (57.5%) followed by PS (38.59%) > LPS (24.04%). The exposure to PS sediment resulted in significantly lower no. of early larval stage (nauplii < 2), 21 22 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 23 (21.8 mg/kg) and Arsenic (13.7 mg/kg) from PS exposure with significantly lower 24

25	bioaccumulation of metals from LPS. The bioconcentration factor (BCF) was highest from
26	dissolved toxicity (>2000) followed by PS that showed significantly higher BCF for Nickel
27	and Copper, compared to LPS. The responses of E. affinis to different matrices exemplify its
28	role as a sentinel.
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Keywords- *Eurytemora affinis*, sediment resuspension, sex-ratio (% of males), Seine estuary
(France), Canche estuary (France).

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1. Introduction

The effect of sediment resuspension on pelagic and epibenthic species has been 35 explored in previous investigations on fishes, amphipods, copepods, and other 36 invertebrates (Henry et al., 2004; Charry et al., 2018; Borcier et al., 2019, 2020; 37 Das et al., 2020a). The resuspension of sediments usually occurs in areas that are 38 often characterized by strong hydrodynamic forces and previous studies have 39 40 illustrated that the possible causes of sediment suspension in macrotidal estuaries are the tidal cycles, currents, waves, including man-made factors like dredging, 41 construction of jetties and dykes (Deloffre et al., 2005, 2006, 2007; Mitchell and 42 Uncles, 2013; Wang et al., 2013; Grasso et al., 2018). Sediment resuspension 43 affects aquatic organisms through turbidity, suspended particulate matters (SPM), 44 and also through the exposure to a varied range of contaminants that are often 45 embedded into the sediment column especially near the anthropogenic areas 46 (Kerambrun et al., 2013; Lesueur et al., 2015; Buttino et al., 2018; Charry et al., 47 48 2018; Das et al., 2020a,b). The concern on the effect of sediment resuspension is increasing with the escalating industries coupled with the extensive dredging and 49 coastal constructions built for human exigencies. In such domains, collectively 50

51 both the SPM and toxic substances have been reported to exhibit high mortality, 52 reduced body size, and affect the egg production in many pelagic to epi-benthic 53 species in the ecosystem (Sew et al., 2018; Das et al., 2020a). Although such 54 toxicological surveys are high on demand and are important, it is equally very 55 challenging to assess the toxicity of sediment resuspension to nearby organisms 56 and as a consequence only few literatures are available on this issue.

57 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 58 59 channel aiding the local residents (Lafite and Romaña, 2001). Previous works described how such constructions reduced the tidal flat area and how its distinct 60 morphology in the turbidity zone is impacted by huge resuspension from rivers, 61 62 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 63 al., 1980; Avoine et al., 1981; Le Hir et al., 2001; Deloffre et al., 2005, 2006). On 64 the other hand, Seine estuary is also an industrial site with loads of contaminants 65 prevailing in that area, practicing commercial pursuits for over decades (Cailleaud 66 et al., 2007; Minier et al., 2006; Dauvin et al., 2008; Ouddane et al., 2018, Zidour 67 et al., 2019; Das et al., 2020a). Such toxic exposures embedded in the sediment 68 are often bioaccumulated by a range of pelagic and benthic organisms which gets 69 70 biomagnified into tertiary organisms posing serious threats to human life 71 (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 72 73 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 74 et al., 2013; Sew et al., 2018; Das et al., 2020a). 75

76 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 77 the heath of the ecosystem (Parmar et al., 2016; Farias et al., 2018; Chiarelli et al., 78 79 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 80 habitat (Kwok et al., 2015; Souissi and Soussi, 2021). Pelagic copepods have been 81 82 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 83 84 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, 85 hydrophobic compounds, etc. in acute and multigenerational exposure (Cailleaud 86 87 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 88 is still in progress and the need of a sentinel species from the pelagic community 89 90 in response to resuspended sediment is however necessary especially near the industrial and commercial sites, such as the Seine estuary. Previous studies 91 reported that Eurytemora affinis, on a larval assay has shown a sensitivity to 92 sediment bound hydrophobic compounds in a short-term toxicological experiment 93 94 (Lesueur et al., 2015). In the previous studies, experimental approaches using 95 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; 96 Buttino et al., 2018). Our previous study was the first documentation on the direct 97 98 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 99 vulnerability induced from one generation to the next reporting the different 100

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 105 from an unpolluted area (reference) with lower prevalence of contaminants, have 106 107 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; 108 109 Kerambrun et al., 2013). Therefore, another objective of this study was to implement an inter-site comparison between Seine estuary and a relatively less 110 polluted area. Previous works on such comparisons between nearby estuaries in 111 112 Northern France has often marked the Canche estuary with proportionately lower commercial activities, industries, human impact, and considerably a low 113 prevalence of pollutants by using it as a reference sediment (Henry et al., 2004, 114 2012; Amara et al., 2007; Kerambrun et al., 2013). Such studies also mentioned 115 the absence of a proper reference site in Northern France with significantly lower 116 toxicants as nearly all the estuaries are being polluted from the adjacent 117 manufacturing and/or industries, with the influence of urban pollution. Hence, in 118 this study we used sediment from the Canche estuary and referred it as a less 119 120 polluted site (LPS) comparing it with Seine estuarine sediment referred as a polluted site (PS). In parallel, with the sediment resuspension, the effect of 121 dissolved exposure comprising of a cocktail with non-essential trace metals was 122 123 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 124 effect on the population density and mortality of E. affinis (Zidour et al., 2019; 125

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
 polluted site (PS, Seine estuary).
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2. Material and methods

135**2.1 Sediment sampling**

The two stations for collecting the sediment samples were chosen with an aim to 136 compare the effect of a less polluted (LPS, Fig 1. A) and polluted resuspension of 137 sediment (PS, Fig. 1B) on E. affinis. The Seine estuarine sediment sample was 138 collected towards the foreshore of the northern tidal-flat closer to the Normandy 139 Bridge (49°26'33.762"N; 0°16'8.475"E). On the other hand, the estuary of Canche 140 often classified as a Picard estuary located in the northwestern region of France, was 141 accounted as LPS and a reference site in this study (Henry et al., 2004, 2012; 142 Kerambrun et al., 2013). The sediment samples in Canche was collected near the 143 south shore, closer to the mouth of the estuary in the intertidal area $(50^{\circ}32'16.26''N;$ 144 1°35'34.02"E). 145

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 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 Seineestuary.

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2.2 Culturing of copepod Eurytemora affinis

The culture of *Eurytemora affinis* was initiated two months before the start of the 156 experiment in a clean 300 L culture tank for a thorough acclimation. The 157 copepods were collected from the mass cultures of our laboratory that are 158 maintained for about two decades. The entire culturing process for this study was 159 maintained under controlled conditions (salinity 15 with 18⁰ C ambient 160 temperature and a light/dark cycle of 12h: 12h) and the red alga Rhodomonas 161 salina was used as a feed to the copepods (Souissi et al., 2016 a, b; Michalec et 162 al., 2017; Das et al., 2020a). 163

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2.3 Experimental approach

The exposure of copepods to different conditions - sediment resuspension from 166 LPS, PS, TM (Cd + Pb + As) and control was done in 10 L beakers (8.5 L 167 seawater, for ease of handling) to ensure a higher quantity especially for analyzing 168 the trace metal concentrations from each replicate (Zidour et al., 2019 and Dayras 169 et al., 2020). The entire exposure was held in controlled temperature $(18 \pm 2^0 \text{ C})$, 170 light/dark cycle and salinity, similar to the culture conditions with constant 171 172 resuspension and circulation inside the beakers for a nearly symmetrical exposure of the contents of each treatment to E. affinis. The constant resuspension was 173 obtained by air bubbles through long glass pipettes generated from an air pump. 174 175 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 176 thereafter got resuspended into the water column with the air bubbling. The 177 sediment exposure and concentration (1/2 10% LC50) from LPS and PS was done 178 by following Das et al. 2020a. In the trace metal mixture, only non-essential trace 179 metals (Cd + Pb + As) were dissolved according to their respective LC 50 %, 180 when exposed to E. affinis. The 10% LC50% of Cd, Pb and As was 10.88 µg/L, 181 41.31 µg/Land 44.9 µg/L respectively as reported by Zidour et al., 2019 and Das 182 183 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

199	Population density _{T0h}
100	Population density _{T0h} – Population density _{treatments (T96h)}
198	Equation 1- Mortality% (96h) in all treatments =
197	equation 1 for all the treatments.
196	condition with 3 replicates. The mortality% was calculated by following the
195	(early larval stages + adults) at T0h and T96h counted and calculated from each
194	density of the culture. The population density was the summation of all the stages
193	density (individuals/mL) in each treatment at T96h from the T0h population
192	section 2.4). The mortality% was calculated from the difference of the population
191	rest of the copepods in 8L were filtered for trace metal analysis (described below,
190	alcohol) for counting the density and examining the stages of the copepod; and the
189	was homogenised thoroughly and separated into a volume of 500 ml (fixed in

The sex ratio (% of males) was calculated by following equation 2, which is as followsEquation 2 - Sex ratio in all treatments =

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204 $100 \times \frac{C5male + adult male}{C5male + c5 female + adult male + adult female + ovigerous female}$

205

206 **2.4 Trace metal analysis**

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 213 analyze the trace metal concentration. Similarly, after sampling from both the 214 stations, sediment was collected on filters and dried in order to measure the trace 215 metal concentration at T0h before the exposure. After 96 hours (T96h) of 216 exposure, samples of sediment and copepod (in 8 L) were again collected from 217 each treatment and replicate to measure the final trace metal concentration bio-218 accumulated in sediment and exposed E. affinis at T96h. The trace metal 219 concentration in the dissolved trace metal mixture treatment and the residual water 220 221 from all the treatments were analyzed by collecting the water samples in 15ml falcon tubes fixed with 15 μ L of ultrapure Nitric acid (HNO₃). All the 222 measurement of elemental standards as well as the procedures for quality 223 224 maintenance were executed by following Das et al., 2020a, 2021.

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226 **2.5 Statistical analysis**

The statistical analyses for the comparison of all the parameters between the 227 treatments was executed by performing the analysis of variance (ANOVA) along 228 with Tukey multiple comparisons of means (family-wise confidence level of 95% 229 or less), on meeting the required criteria for the analysis. To perform ANOVA, a 230 test for normality using a Shapiro Wilk normality test was done and to test the 231 232 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 233 no alternative non-parametric test was performed. 234

235

3. Results

237 **3.1 Population density and stages of** *Eurytemora affinis*

238	The population density of <i>E. affinis</i> decreased gradually from T0h culture (373
239	individuals/500mL) > T96h control (334 individuals/500mL) > T96h LPS (281
240	individuals/500mL)> T96h PS (233 individuals/500mL) > T96h TM (158
241	individuals/500mL) significantly (p <0.05) in each condition (Fig. 2). Among the
242	copepod stages, adult male [T0h (162 individuals/500mL) > T96h control (131
243	individuals/500mL) > T96h LPS (94 individuals/500mL)] in each treatment varied
244	significantly (p <0.05), apart from PS (74 individuals/500mL) and TM (65
245	individuals/500mL). The C5 male showed significantly lower density in the PS
246	(20 individuals/500mL) and TM (23 individuals/500mL) treatment when
247	compared to T0h (42 individuals/500mL), T96h control (53 individuals/500mL),
248	and T96h LPS (36 individuals/500mL). The C5 female showed a significantly
249	lower no. of individuals in the TM exposure (21 individuals/500mL), but not for
250	PS (31 individuals/500mL) and / or LPS (30 individuals/500mL), as in both the
251	sediment exposed treatments, no. of adult female and C5 female increased
252	indicating a specific response due to the exposure of resuspended sediment
253	altering the sex-ratio (% of males) of the population. Another specific response
254	marking the sediment resuspension was the no. of nauplii that was lower in LPS
255	(~5 individuals/500mL) and PS (< 2 individuals/500mL) from all the other
256	treatments, however significantly lower in case of PS. Although PS treatment
257	showed lower no. of individuals in all the stages from T0h culture and T96h
258	control, only no. of ovigerous female was similar (11 individuals/500mL) and
259	significantly higher than TM (~4 individuals/500mL) and LPS (~5
260	individuals/500mL), presumably denoting a lower hatching success or a delay in
261	the embryonic development.





Fig. 2. Comparison of the stages of copepod and the total population of the copepod from 264 culture at T0h and all the treatments [control, less polluted sediment (LPS), polluted sediment 265 (PS) and dissolved trace metal (TM)] after 96h (T96h) of exposure. The total population is 266 plotted on the secondary axis. The error bar shows the standard deviation between the three 267 replicates in each treatment. The letters a, b, c, denotes the significant differences in each 268 treatment within one stage of E. affinis. 269

3.2 Mortality and sex-ratio (% of males)

The mortality % in control (10.4%) was significantly lower than the other 271 treatments (Fig.3). LPS showed the lowest mortality (24 %) within the 272 exposed treatments (both dissolved and resuspended sediment), followed by 273 274 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 275 lower sex-ratio (39.2% of males) than the other treatments. The LPS treatment 276

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 different letters (x, y, z, w) at p <0.05. The error bar shows the standard deviation between the three replicates in each treatment.

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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 293 (Fig.4). In between the two sediment exposed treatments, total As (3.26 mg/kg), Cu (13.29 mg/kg) and Pb (8.15 mg/kg) from LPS showed significantly lower 294 values than PS [As (13.7 mg/kg), Cu (27.27 mg/kg), Pb (21.81 mg/kg)]. The 295 296 concentration of Cu (12.82 mg/kg) and Ni (7.81 mg/kg) were detected in the dissolved TM (without any addition) as they play essential roles in the metabolism 297 of organisms that was significantly lower (p < 0.05) than the concentrations of Cu 298 (27.27 mg/kg) and Ni (12.8 mg/kg) found in the PS. The highest concentration of 299 bioaccumulation was observed for As (29.5 mg/kg) from the dissolved phase 300 301 (TM), followed by Pb (26.8 mg/kg), Cu (12.82 mg/kg), Ni (7.81 mg/kg) and Cd (3.4 mg/kg). On the other hand, from resuspended source of exposure (PS and 302 LPS), highest bioaccumulation was observed for Cu followed by Ni, Pb, As and 303 304 Cd.



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.

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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

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

- **4. Discussion**
- 325 **4.1 Life cycle traits of** *Eurytemora affinis*

Comparison of toxicity from different matrices remains crucial to comprehend the 326 mechanisms adapted by bioindicator organisms that are prevalent in nature. 327 Eurytemora affinis has conveyed many such adaptive mechanisms to toxicity 328 329 through its life cycle traits although mostly in studies with respect to dissolved toxicity in an artificially contaminant spiked exposure (Legrand et al., 2016; 330 Kadiene et al., 2017; Kadiene et al., 2019 b; Zidour et al., 2019; Choi et al., 2021). 331 Zidour et al. (2019) reported that a combination of trace metal exposed from the 332 dissolved phase decreases the population density of E. affinis in a 96 hour 333 exposure. In some studies, an acute and chronic toxicological exposure of trace 334 metals from the dissolved phase and dietary pathway to copepod species like 335 Pseudodiaptomas annandalei and Paracyclopina nana affected the population 336 growth, developmental stages with sex specific responses (males more affected 337 than females related to differentially expressed genes) highlighting the differences 338 of toxicity originating from varied pathways (Kadiene et al., 2019, 2020, Dayras 339 340 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 341 significantly reduced with a significant increase in mortality, further affecting all 342 the stages of the copepod. Studies comparing exposure from diverse matrices like 343 sediment resuspension, sediment elutriates, dissolved phases are considerably less, 344 with only few literature reporting the effect of pollutants originating from dietary 345 346 pathways, whole resuspended sediment and also from elutriates of natural

- 347 sediments (Lesueur et al., 2013; 2015, Charry et al., 2018; Buttino et al., 2018;
 348 Kadiene et al., 2019a, Das et al., 2020a).
- 349 In this study we found that the dissolved trace metals posed more adverse effect 350 on the population density (T96h) of E. affinis than the indirect exposure of resuspended sediments. This observation was similar to our previous study where 351 an intergenerational exposure to trace metals from sediment resuspension (Seine 352 353 estuary) showed higher population density after the second generation of exposure and a higher recovery in the non-exposed generation when compared to trace 354 355 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 356 when exposed to resuspended anthropogenic sediment. 357
- 358 Furthermore, in some previous studies a lower number of nauplii was observed when exposed to sediment bound contaminants and Perez-Landa and Simpson 359 (2011) reported higher sensitivity of nauplii to sediment exposure than dissolved 360 toxic compounds (Fleeger and Lotufo, 1999; Kovatch et al., 1999; Chandler and 361 Green, 2001; Spadaro et al., 2008; Perez-Landa and Simpson, 2011; Das et al., 362 2020a). This study also reports a similar trend of lower no. of nauplii in the 363 sediment exposed treatments (PS, significantly lower and LPS not significantly 364 lower) in the E. affinis population just after 96 hours of exposure. In parallel to 365 366 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 367 the previous studies have been indicated as an effect of endocrine disruptors that 368 369 is prevalent in the Seine estuarine sediment and is often reported to cause imbalances in hormones and reproduction, affecting the hatching success rate and 370 impeding the embryonic development (Spadaro et al., 2008; Cailleaud et al., 2010; 371

Perez-Landa and Simpson, 2011; Das et al., 2020a). Along with the lower no. of 372 nauplii we report that sex-ratio (% of males) was another biomarker specifically 373 observed in the resuspended sediment exposure from Seine estuary (PS) that 374 showed significantly lower sex-ratio (% of males) than that of control, and 375 dissolved trace metals. This observation was consistent in our previous study on 376 intergenerational exposure and also the present study on a 96 hour exposure, 377 378 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). 379 380 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 381 the varied pathways and also gender specific bioaccumulation of trace metals as 382 383 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 384 dissolved toxicity when compared based on the life cycle traits possess varied 385 responses (supplementary info Table. 3S), of which, few are specific to particular 386 pathway of contamination and E. affinis features its suitability to be used as an 387 indicator in such toxicological assays (Cailleaud et al., 2009, 2010; Lee et al., 388 2018; Kadiene et al., 2019 b; Zidour et al., 2019, Das et al., 2020a). 389

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;

397 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 398 coast as Canche, approximately 20 km south) when exposed to a benthic indicator, 399 400 Hediste diversicolor, reported that due to the higher pollution in the Seine with reference to chemical contaminants, the population of H. diversicolor was 401 significantly lower than that of the Authie estuary (Gillet et al., 2008). In this 402 403 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 404 405 sediment toxicity. Previous studies reported that finer sediments often tend to adsorb higher amount of chemical contaminants like trace metals, organic 406 hydrophobic compounds, etc., than coarse sediment particles (Mao et al., 2019; 407 408 Das et al., 2020b; Vane et al., 2020). Our study also reports the same observation 409 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 410 with lower aggregates of contaminants. The above observations further highlight 411 the need for the comparison of numerous matrices of toxicity and the 412 consideration of different levels of contamination existing in several estuaries for 413 developing new tools to evaluate the health of the ecosystem. 414

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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 (2.48 422 mg/kg), Ba (9.9 mg/kg), Mn (15.8 mg/kg), Cu (5.62 mg/kg), Zn (25.7 mg/kg)] 423 (Table 1S, and Table 2S, supplementary info) as reported in previous studies 424 425 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 426 significance of metal contamination in the Seine estuary from 1930 that posed a 427 notable concern for the prevalence of high concentration of toxic compounds for 428 decades. In 2013, another study on the trace metal concentration of Seine estuary 429 430 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 431 reports a similar range of trace metal concentration reported in previous works, for 432 433 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 434 coastal pollution in different harbours and estuaries in Northern France, reports a 435 436 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) 437 prevailing in the sediment at the Canche estuary (Birth, 2003; Francescangeli et 438 al., 2020). Similar to the above finding we report that exposure to Canche 439 440 estuarine sediment caused a significantly lower mortality of E. affinis than those 441 exposed to Seine estuarine sediment, even when the exposed sediment concentration were same for both the estuaries. In comparison between the three 442 exposed treatments (LPS, PS and TM), dissolved TM treatment showed 443 444 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 445 higher adversity from dissolved toxicity in comparison to indirect exposure of 446

trace metals resuspended through sediment exposure. This phenomena was similar 447 with our previous findings along with some other studies that focused on various 448 matrices of contamination, reporting higher ability of bioaccumulation of 449 450 contaminants from dissolved phase when compared to dietary pathways or sediment resuspension (Kadiene et al., 2019a, b; Das et al., 2020a; Dayras et al., 451 2020). The inter-site comparison of sediment exposure (LPS and PS), showed 452 significantly higher accumulation of As (13.7 mg/kg), Cu (27.2 mg/kg) and Pb 453 (21.8 mg/kg) from PS sediment when compared to the LPS sediment [As (3.26 454 455 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 456 [sublethal concentration; Pb (10%LC50% = 41.3 mg/kg); Ni (10%LC50% = 12.55 457 458 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 459 organisms through resuspension causing significantly higher mortality than low 460 polluted quarters (like, LPS). In addition, the Cu accumulation by *E. affinis* from 461 the PS sediment exposure was even more toxic than Pb and Ni, as it reached the 462 similar range of the lethal concentration (LC 50% Cu- 33.5 µg/L) of *E. affinis* in 463 just 96 hours of exposure (Zidour et al., 2019). Similar to our results, in a 464 comparison with the nearby tidal flats, Scheldt estuary was reported to contain 465 varied trace metals (Ag, As, Cd, Cr Co, Zn, and many others) in concentrations 466 similar to the range present in the Seine and the Loire estuaries, further reporting a 467 high risk of Arsenic in the edible seafood like shrimps (Kerambrun et al., 2013; 468 Van Ael et al., 2017). Likewise, our study highlights the capacity of *E. affinis* to 469 significantly bioaccumulate trace metals like Cu, Pb, As, and Ni in concentrations 470 that are sub lethal to lethal from the resuspension of Seine estuarine sediment 471

indicating the chances of biomagnification of trace metals in higher trophic 472 organisms. Van Ael et al. (2017) further discussed about the importance of 473 studying the bioavailability of trace metals from sediment column and 474 bioaccumulation by inhabiting organisms along with the importance of 475 considering several matrices of contamination that helps us to better assess the 476 aspects concerning pollution of a particular area (Culioli et al., 2009; Van 477 478 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 479 480 be significantly higher from the dissolved combined TM treatment (> 2000) than the resuspended sediment exposure, similar to our previous study (Das et al., 481 2020a). The sediment exposure to E. affinis showed some specific markers in this 482 483 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 484 was due to the contaminants that are prevalent in the Seine sediment, and previous 485 486 works have reported the presence of a range of organic pollutants, endocrine disruptors, sex steroids apart from the trace metals that implied certain significant 487 responses in the Seine sediment resuspension treatment like the lower no. of 488 nauplii, shift in the sex-ratio with less % of male with respect to females, 489 490 population density along with higher mortality of E. affinis in this study 491 (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 492 sediment did not significantly affect the sex-ratio (% of males) and the no. of 493 494 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., 495 2013; Van Ael et al., 2017; Francescangeli et al., 2020). The responses from the 496

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.

500

501 **5.** Conclusion

This study shows the responses of E. affinis in a 96h exposure from different 502 matrices of contamination. In a 96-hour assay, the population of E. affinis showed 503 38% higher mortality from the Seine sediment (PS) when compared to the low 504 505 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. 506 of ovigerous female, reflecting a low hatching success and delayed embryonic 507 508 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 509 males) when compared to other treatments like the low polluted sediment 510 resuspension and the dissolved toxicity. 511

The dissolved non-essential trace metal treatment (As + Cd + Pb) induced the 512 highest mortality and the bioconcentration factor. Although the trace metals 513 mixture treatment showed a higher bioaccumulation in E. affinis, trace metals 514 accumulated by E. affinis from the Seine sediment almost reached similar values 515 516 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 517 concentrations that are lethal to sub lethal from resuspension of sediment and bio-518 519 indicating certain responses that corroborate its role as a Sentinel to sediment resuspension. The specific indicators from the sediment resuspension can further 520 be utilised in other studies for a deeper understanding of the stress in 521

522anthropogenic domains dominated with high resuspension of sediments, naturally523or due to human activities like dredging and coastal fabrications for human524motive. This study provides important tools to compare toxicity of sediment525resuspension from different estuaries all around the globe with varying levels of526contamination.

527

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