



Effects of Pollution on Fish Behavior, Personality, and Cognition: Some Research Perspectives

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Specialty section:

This article was submitted to
Behavioral and Evolutionary Ecology,
a section of the journal
Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution

Received: 18 October 2019

Accepted: 16 March 2020

Published: 07 April 2020

Citation:

Jacquin L, Petitjean Q, Côte J,
Laffaille P and Jean S (2020) Effects
of Pollution on Fish Behavior,
Personality, and Cognition: Some
Research Perspectives.
Front. Ecol. Evol. 8:86.
doi: 10.3389/fevo.2020.00086

Pollutants, and more generally, environmental stressors, are a neglected source of behavioral and cognitive variations in wild populations. Based on recent literature in fish, we highlight four interesting research perspectives to better understand the effects of pollutants on the links between fish behavior, cognition and fitness. First, (1) we review the neurotoxic effects of pollutants on fish behavior, personality, and cognition. These behavioral and cognitive effects could in turn affect the level of exposure to pollutants, potentially generating feedback loops that may amplify the effects of pollutants on fish fitness. Second, we propose that (2) the effects of pollutants should be studied in a multistress context, i.e., in realistic environmental conditions in combination with other stressors, because some stressors could amplify the behavioral effects of pollutants on fitness. Third (3), existing studies show that physiology, personality, cognition, and fitness components are often linked in syndromes. Pollutants could lead to syndrome disruption, which could affect the evolutionary trajectories of exposed populations. Future studies should thus focus on the complex links between traits to better understand the consequences of stressors on evolutionary trajectories. Fourth, (4) exposure to chronic pollution could lead to local adaptation or maladaptation, which could result into high intraspecific variability of sensitivity among wild populations. In addition, evolutionary responses to pollution could constrain, or be constrained by evolutionary responses to other stressors. We thus encourage future studies to use integrative approaches to bridge the gap between ecotoxicology, cognitive ecology and evolutionary ecology in a multistress framework to tackle these exciting questions and improve our ability to predict the effects of anthropogenic stressors on wildlife.

Keywords: temperament, contamination, global change, stress response, multistress, evolutionary ecotoxicology, local adaptation

INTRODUCTION

Human activities are the sources of many organic and inorganic contaminants such as plastics, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, and metals that have alarming impacts on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems (Scott and Sloman, 2004; Zala and Penn, 2004; Saaristo et al., 2018). However, our ability to accurately predict their effects on wildlife is limited by several scientific challenges. Direct effects of pollutants on animal physiology and mortality have been included as part of routine ecotoxicology studies (Butcher et al., 2006; Ashauer et al., 2013), but more complex behavioral

effects on animal personality and cognition are less studied, especially in wild species and in realistic multistress conditions (Zala and Penn, 2004; Saaristo et al., 2018). In addition, the links between behavioral changes, cognitive performances, and individual fitness are rarely taken into account when studying contaminant effects, which limits our ability to predict the cascading long-term impacts of human activities on population persistence and evolutionary trajectories.

Here, we review the existing literature focusing on fish to investigate the behavioral effects of pollutants in a multistress perspective. Fish have been widely used for behavioral and cognitive assays (Brown et al., 2006), and are used as “sentinel” animals in ecotoxicology (Giulio and Hinton, 2008; Braunbeck et al., 2013). We thus summarized (non-extensively) the existing literature on the behavioral effects of pollutants in wild fish (Table 1). As shown in Table 1, most previous studies used ecologically relevant pollution levels, but they tested the effects of contamination alone, i.e., in a single stressor framework. However, pollution effects are often modulated by a concomitant exposure to other natural or human-induced stressors in the wild (Schinegger et al., 2016), which could result into synergistic interactions and/or amplified effects on fish fitness (e.g., Gandar et al., 2015, 2017a). Nonetheless, empirical data on multistress effects on fish behavior are still rare (Table 1). In addition, strong correlations often exist between traits (Réale et al., 2007; Conrad et al., 2011; Sih, 2011; Sih and Del Giudice, 2012), but most studies have measured behavioral traits in isolation (Table 1), and pollutant effects on syndrome structure are still unclear (Killen et al., 2013; Montiglio and Royauté, 2014). Finally, most previous studies used domestic species or a single population of wild species, so that the interpopulation variability and the evolution of behavioral responses to pollution are rarely taken into account (Table 1). Exploring the effects of pollutants on fish fitness through behavioral and cognitive alterations in wild populations and their evolutionary implications is thus an exciting scientific challenge for the next decades.

Based on the existing knowledge gaps, we highlight four promising research perspectives to better understand the effects of pollution on behavior, cognition and their consequences for fish fitness and population persistence (Figure 1). First, we propose that (1) pollution may alter several behavioral traits, as well as learning and memory abilities, with potential cascading effects on fish fitness. Pollution-induced behavioral alterations could potentially further increase the level of exposure to pollution in the wild, resulting in positive feedback loops that could potentially amplify pollution effects on fitness. Second, we propose that (2) exposure to multiple stressors might now be the rule, so that pollutants should be studied in combination with other stressors that often modify the effects of pollutants on fish behavior and fitness. Third, (3) stressors such as pollutants could affect the links between physiology and behavior, leading to syndrome disruption or reinforcement, with important consequences for evolutionary trajectories. Fourth, we discuss how (4) chronic pollution could lead to local adaptation or maladaptation, due to plastic and/or genetic changes caused by pollutants. Behavioral and cognitive responses are central in adaptive processes, because they are shaped by past evolution,

and can in turn facilitate or impede adaptive responses to pollution and other stressors (Sih et al., 2011) (Figure 1). With this study, we hope to encourage future studies to use integrative approaches bridging the gap between behavioral, cognitive and evolutionary ecology to tackle these challenging questions and to better understand the impacts of current and future stressors on wild fish populations.

EFFECTS OF POLLUTANTS ON FISH BEHAVIOR AND FEEDBACK LOOPS

Many pollutants have direct and indirect effects on the behavior of terrestrial and aquatic organisms (Clotfelter et al., 2004; Zala and Penn, 2004; Saaristo et al., 2018), especially in fish (Scott and Sloman, 2004; Robinson, 2009; Sloman and McNeil, 2012). Inorganic and organic pollutants affect a wide array of behaviors such activity, exploration, avoidance, sociability, aggressiveness, sexual and feeding behaviors (summarized in Table 1). Some studies have also tested the effects of contaminants on behavioral types, or personalities, i.e., on consistent interindividual variations in behavior (Réale et al., 2007, 2010; Montiglio and Royauté, 2014). In addition, many contaminants affect fish cognitive performances (Table 1), with potential cascading effects on fitness (e.g., de Castro et al., 2009).

Some of these changes are underpinned by alterations of cholinesterase activity, neurotransmitter or hormone levels (Scott and Sloman, 2004; Brodin et al., 2014; Vindas et al., 2017). For instance, carbofuran pesticide alters neurofunction and activity in sea bass *Dicentrarchus labrax* (Hernández-Moreno et al., 2011). Fluoxetine antidepressant (Prozac) alters aggression, boldness and learning in the Siamese fighting fish *Betta splendens* by altering the serotonin system (Kohlert et al., 2012; Eisenreich and Szalda-Petree, 2015; Dzieweczynski et al., 2016). Other behavioral changes could be indirectly due to changes in energetic balance (Montiglio and Royauté, 2014), due to the costs of detoxification and stress responses (Sokolova et al., 2012; Sokolova, 2013). For instance, low doses of pesticides decreased activity in goldfish *Carassius auratus*, likely due to increased costs of detoxification and physiological defenses (Gandar et al., 2015, 2017a,b). However, more work is needed to fully understand the neuronal and physiological underpinnings of pollution-driven alterations of behavior and cognition (Brodin et al., 2014).

Interestingly, pollution-induced changes in behaviors could potentially increase further the level of exposure to pollution and result into positive feedback loops amplifying the negative effects of pollution on fish fitness. However, only indirect evidence exists so far. Indeed, spatial behaviors such as activity, exploration, and avoidance are key behavioral traits that are often affected by pollution. For instance, individuals living in metal polluted sites (lead and cadmium) and having higher levels of metal in their blood displayed slower exploration tendencies in great tits *Parus major* (Grunst et al., 2018, 2019). In another example, Trinidadian guppies *Poecilia reticulata* exposed to crude-oil had decreased exploration tendency in an experimental maze (Jacquin et al., 2017). Such impaired exploration tendencies could in turn affect fish ability to assess habitat quality,

TABLE 1 | Non-extensive summary of the existing literature on the link between pollution and behavior in fish.

Contaminant	Ecological relevance	Fish species	Behavioral traits	Multi-stress	Syndrome	Variability	Source
<i>Plastics</i>							
Microplastics	Yes	<i>Bathygobius krefftii</i>	Boldness, exploration	No	No	No	Tosetto et al. (2017)
Microplastics	Yes	<i>Acanthochromis polyacanthus</i>	Activity, feeding, aggression	No	No	Yes	Critchell and Hoogenboom (2018)
Nanoplastics	Yes	<i>Carassius carassius</i>	Activity, feeding, exploration	No	No	No	Mattsson et al. (2017)
<i>Pharmaceuticals</i>							
Oxazepam	Yes	<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>	Activity, boldness, sociality, feeding rate	No	Yes	No	Brodin et al. (2013)
Vinclozolin, flutamide (chemotherapy)	Yes	<i>Betta splendens</i>	Activity, shoaling, exploration, boldness	No	Yes	No	Dzieweczynski et al. (2018)
Ethinylestradiol	Yes	<i>Betta splendens</i>	Boldness, activity	No	Yes	No	Dzieweczynski et al. (2014)
Ethinylestradiol	Yes	<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	Sexual behaviors	No	No	No	Bayley et al. (1999); Kristensen et al. (2005)
Fluoxetine	Yes	<i>Several species</i>	Antipredator behavior, boldness, aggression, associative learning	Yes	Yes	No	Eisenreich and Szalda-Petree (2015); Dzieweczynski et al. (2016); Eisenreich et al. (2017); Martin et al. (2017); Saaristo et al. (2017)
Various psychiatric drugs	Yes	<i>Several species</i>	Boldness, aggression, activity, feeding, anxiety	No	No	No	Brodin et al. (2014)
Oxazepam	Yes	<i>Salmo salar</i>	Migration	Yes	No	No	Hellström et al. (2016); Klaminder et al. (2019)
Mixture	Yes	<i>Neogobius melanostomus</i>	Aggression	No	No	Yes	McCallum et al. (2017)
<i>Pesticides</i>							
Cocktail of French pesticides (atrazine, metolachlor, isoproturon, linuron. . .)	Yes	<i>Carassius auratus</i>	Activity, foraging	Yes	No	No	Gandar et al. (2015, 2017a); Jacquin et al. (2019)
Vinclozolin (fungicide), DDE (DDT metabolite)	NA	<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	Sexual behaviors	No	No	No	Baatrup and Junge (2001)
Carbaryl, chlordane, 2,4 DMA, DEF, methyl parathion, pentachlorophenol	Yes	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Activity, feeding	Yes	No	No	Little et al. (1990)
Chlorpyrifos		<i>Danio rerio</i>	Spatial learning	No	No	No	Levin et al. (2003)
Glyphosate	Yes	<i>Piaractus mesopotamicus</i>	Feeding	No	No	No	Giaquinto et al. (2017)
Glyphosate	Yes	<i>Danio rerio</i>	Exploration, locomotion, aggression, memory	No	No	No	Bridi et al. (2017)
Atrazine, linuron, metolachlor	Yes	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Aggression, locomotion	No	No	No	Shinn et al. (2015)
Ethoprosfos	Yes	<i>Astyanax aeneus</i>	Avoidance, escape behavior	Yes	No	No	Sandoval-Herrera et al. (2019)
Carbofuran	Yes	<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>	Swimming activity	No	No	No	Hernández-Moreno et al. (2011)
Carbaryl, diazinon, malathion	Yes	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Swimming activity	No	Yes	No	Beauvais et al. (2001)
<i>Other Organic Pollutants</i>							
PCB, PeBDE	Yes	<i>Fundulus heteroclitus</i>	Activity, feeding	No	No	No	Timme-Laragy et al. (2006); Couillard et al. (2011)

(Continued)

TABLE 1 | Continued

Contaminant	Ecological relevance	Fish species	Behavioral traits	Multi-stress	Syndrome	Variability	Source
Nonylphenol (industrial surfactant)	Yes	<i>Fundulus diaphanus</i>	Shoaling, recognition	No	No	No	Ward et al. (2008)
Metals							
Mercury		<i>Danio rerio</i>	Activity, escape	Yes	No	No	Weber (2006)
Methylmercury MeHg		<i>Danio rerio</i>	Anxiety, locomotion	No	No	No	Maximino et al. (2011)
MeHg	Yes	<i>Fundulus heteroclitus</i>	Activity, feeding	No	No	Yes	Zhou and Weis (1998); Weis et al. (1999, 2001)
Metal mixture	Yes	<i>Pimephales promelas</i>	Swimming performance	No	No	No	Kolok et al. (1998)
MeHg	Yes	<i>Fundulus heteroclitus</i>	Sociality	No	No	Yes	Ososkov and Weis (1996)
MeHg	No	<i>Danio rerio</i>	Spatial learning	No	No	No	Smith et al. (2010)
Several metals (Cu, Zn, ...)	No	<i>Several species</i>	Avoidance, activity	No	No	No	Atchison et al. (1987)
Ag	Yes	<i>Danio rerio</i>	Avoidance, swimming, spatial learning	No	No	No	Powers et al. (2011)
Cd	Yes	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Sociality	No	No	No	Sloman et al. (2003)
PCBs and PAHs	Yes	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>	Aggression, activity, escape response	No	No	Yes	Breckels and Neff (2010)
Trenbolone (agricultural pollution)	Yes	<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	Reproductive behaviors	No	No	No	Bertram et al. (2015); Tomkins et al. (2018)
PAHs Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	NA	<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	Exploration, activity, sociality	No	No	Yes	Jacquin et al. (2017)
Benzo[a]pyrene	NA	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>	Territoriality	No	No	No	Ostrander et al. (1988)
PAHs	Yes	<i>Neogobius melanostomus</i>	Competition	No	No	Yes	Sopinka et al. (2010)

The ecological relevance of the contamination level is indicated. Potential gaps regarding the testing of multistress effects, syndrome structure and population variability are also reported.

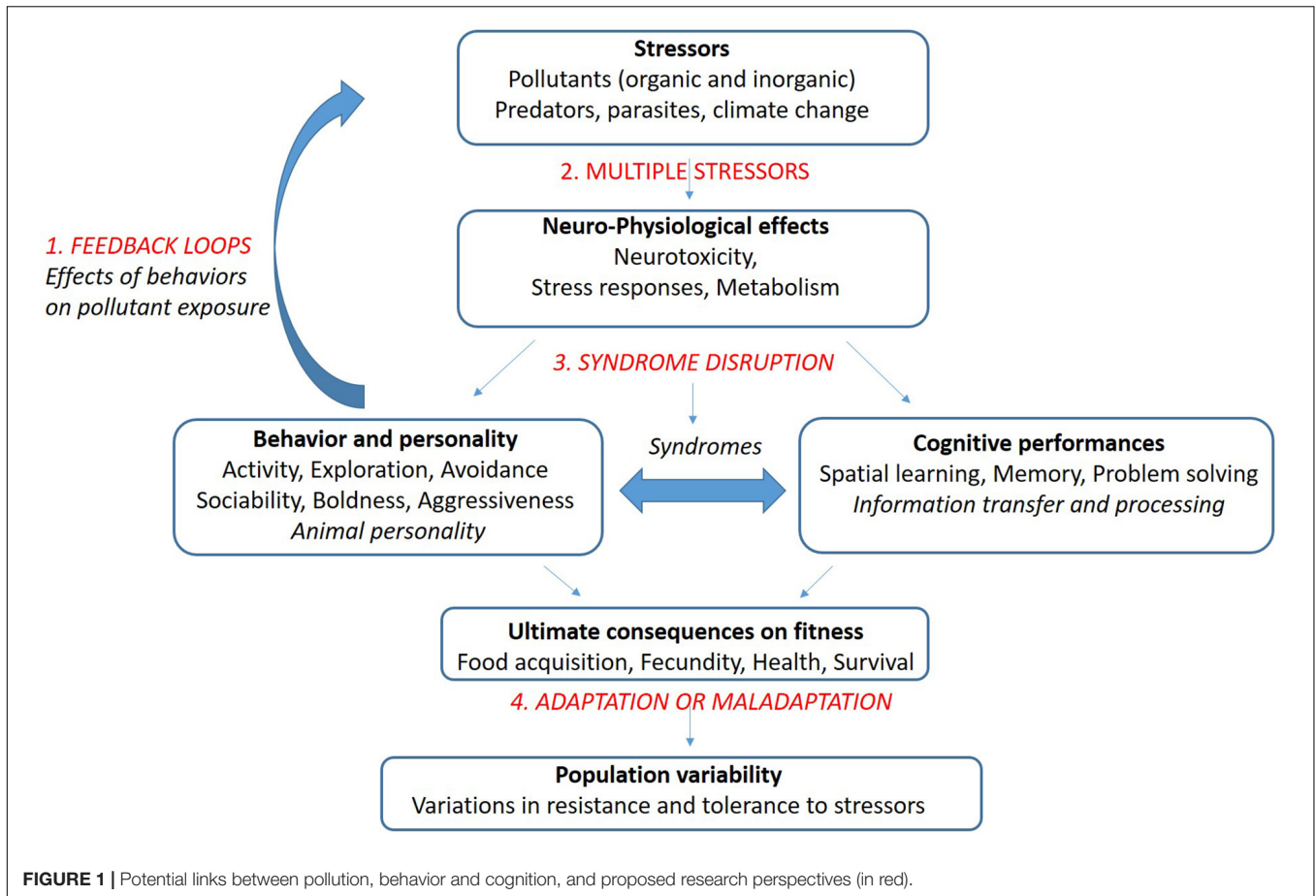
because exploration is a key trait enabling individual to gather information and cues about their environment (Reader, 2015). Social interactions are also often altered by contamination (e.g., Ward et al., 2008), which could decrease social learning and the acquisition of information from conspecifics (Laland and Williams, 1997; Brown and Laland, 2003).

Spatial cognitive abilities such as spatial memory and spatial learning ability are also often deeply impacted by contaminants. For instance, aluminum contamination impaired learning performance in a maze task in Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*, which could decrease their ability to process information and cope with new environments (Grassie et al., 2013). Organic pollutants such as pesticides also disturbed activity and spatial memory in zebrafish *Danio rerio* and rare minnow *Gobiocypris rarus* (Hong and Zha, 2019). Such adverse cognitive effects are expected to have severe consequences for fish ability to learn and memorize information to escape predators, find food and mates, and to avoid polluted areas and food items. Contaminated fish could thus have difficulties to collect, process and memorize information about habitat and food quality, which might further affect their exposure to pollution and result into positive feedback loops. In addition, many pollutants affect dispersal and migration, which could affect the exposure of animals to pollution. For instance, pesticides and pharmaceuticals alter downward migration and homing behaviors in salmonid fish (e.g., Scholz et al., 2000; Hellström et al., 2016; McCallum et al.,

2019), which could potentially expose them to higher levels of pollution if they cannot return to their clean home river. However, further work is needed to test these hypotheses.

Pollution also affects fish boldness, appetite, foraging patterns, which could affect their level of dietary contamination (Montiglio and Royauté, 2014). For instance, perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) exposed to psychiatric drugs were more active and bolder than control fish and had a lower latency to feed (Brodin et al., 2013). These pollution-induced behavioral changes increased their foraging rate on zooplankton in the water column, which is a prey item potentially carrying a high dose of accumulated drugs (Brodin et al., 2013, 2014). In addition, organisms exposed to pollutants generally have higher metabolic rates and greater energetic needs, because detoxifying and repair processes are costly (e.g., McKenzie et al., 2007), which could increase their activity and foraging, and hence their exposure to dietary-transmitted pollutants (Montiglio and Royauté, 2014). For instance, crucian carp *Carassius carassius* exposed to dietary polystyrene nanoparticles through the food chain had altered activity and higher feeding time, likely due to increased energetic needs and/or altered brain structure (Mattsson et al., 2015, 2017). This could thus increase their exposure to further pollution in the wild, but empirical approaches are now needed to test this assumption.

In summary, pollution-induced alterations of exploration, sociability, memory, learning, appetite, boldness, and



foraging could potentially in turn amplify fish exposure to environmentally or dietary contamination, and generate positive feedback loops (Montiglio and Royauté, 2014), with important implications for fish fitness. However, only indirect evidence exists so far, and further experimental studies are now needed to test this hypothesis.

MULTIPLE STRESSOR EFFECTS ON BEHAVIOR AND FITNESS

In addition, many behavioral disruptions caused by pollutants are amplified in the presence of additional abiotic and biotic stressors such as predators, parasites, or climate change. For instance, pollutants are likely to affect how efficiently individuals escape predators by altering activity, boldness, olfaction ability, and learning abilities (Weis et al., 1999, 2001; Lüring and Scheffer, 2007). Accordingly, copper impairs olfactory neurons in fathead minnow *Pimephales promelas*, which alters their ability to perceive alarm cues and increases their vulnerability to predation (Dew et al., 2014). In another study, banded tetra *Astyanax aeneus* exposed to an organophosphate pesticide had altered avoidance behavior and a lower ability to escape a predator attack (Sandoval-Herrera et al., 2019). As a result, the presence of predators can reveal the ecological effects of pollution on fish

fitness through neuro-behavioral effects, resulting in lower fitness for individuals exposed to both pollution and predators.

Other biotic stressors such as parasites could also modulate the physiological and behavioral effects of pollutants. Indeed, resistance to pollutants and parasites are often based on shared neural and physiological pathways, which could result into significant interactions between these stressors (Thilakarathne et al., 2007; Blonar et al., 2009; Marcogliese and Pietrock, 2011). For instance, contaminants and parasites both involve important energetic, oxidative, and immune costs (e.g., Marcogliese et al., 2005), potentially leading to synergic or antagonistic effects depending on the metabolic strategy displayed (Sokolova et al., 2012; Sokolova, 2013; Petitjean et al., 2019). Pollution-exposed individuals generally invest more energy in costly detoxification processes (Du et al., 2018, 2019) at the expense of immunity (Dunier and Siwicki, 1993; Dunier, 1996), with potential consequences for parasite resistance (Arkoosh et al., 1991, 2001; Jansen et al., 2011; Rohr et al., 2013). For instance, three-spined stickleback *Gasterosteus aculeatus* exposed to a polymetallic stress were more susceptible to an immune challenge through changes in oxidative responses (Le Guernic et al., 2016). Parasites and their associated immune challenges could thus act as important biotic constraints altering the effects of pollution on fish behavior and fitness, but few studies experimentally tested this hypothesis, especially in fish.

Other stressors such as climate change and water warming could also modulate the effects of pollutants, either through direct effects on the chemical properties of pollutants, and/or through complex interactive effects on neurophysiological pathways (Schiedek et al., 2007; Noyes et al., 2009). For instance, exposure to pesticides and water warming in goldfish had complex interactive effects on goldfish *Carassius auratus* proteome and cell integrity (Gandar et al., 2017b; Jacquin et al., 2019), and resulted in antagonistic effects on fish foraging activity in fish exposed to multiple stressors compared to fish exposed to single stressors (Gandar et al., 2015). To conclude, pollution effects often depend on the concomitant exposure to other biotic and abiotic stressors (Dinh Van et al., 2013, 2014; Tüzün et al., 2015, 2017; Debecker and Stoks, 2019; Saaristo et al., 2019), underlining the need for multistress approaches to better predict the cognitive and fitness consequences of pollution on wildlife.

POLLUTION AS A REVEALING OR MASKING FACTOR OF BEHAVIORAL SYNDROMES

Rather than being one-dimensional, animal personalities often consist of a suites of interrelated traits, referred to as behavioral syndromes (Sih et al., 2004; Réale et al., 2007; Conrad et al., 2011; Sih, 2011; Sih and Del Giudice, 2012). In fish, several consistent behavioral traits such as boldness, activity exploration, and sociability are linked together in syndromes, with important implications for fitness and evolutionary trajectories (Conrad et al., 2011; Dochtermann and Dingemans, 2013). For instance, three-spined sticklebacks *Gasterosteus aculeatus* that are bolder and more aggressive are more likely to escape predator attacks and survive, resulting in higher fitness compared to other trait combinations (Bell and Sih, 2007; Dingemans et al., 2007). Behavioral syndromes are also important for information use and learning. For instance, sticklebacks that are more prone to explore a maze have also a higher tendency to follow trained conspecifics, with potential advantages for social learning (Nomakuchi et al., 2009). It is thus important to take these syndromes into account because they could help predict the effects of stressors on fish fitness and cognition.

Various mechanisms could explain the links between traits, such as genetic linkage, correlational selection, resource allocation trade-offs, genetic or physiological pleiotropy (Houston and McNamara, 1999; Aubin-Horth et al., 2012; Killen et al., 2013). In fish, physiological traits and personality traits are tightly linked. For instance, lineages of trout selected for low stress responses have a lower production of cortisol and higher metabolic rate, but are also bolder, more aggressive, with a lower ability of reversal learning, compared to lineages selected for high stress responses (Overli et al., 2002; Höglund et al., 2017; Vindas et al., 2017). Stress responses and energetic adjustments linked to metabolism thus seem central constraints in determining syndrome structure and the links between stable behaviors in fish.

Because pollutants often trigger important stress responses and changes in metabolism, they have the potential to affect

the structure of behavioral syndromes, with consequences for cognitive abilities and responses to environmental cues (Killen et al., 2013). In particular, pollution can trigger a stress response (cortisol production) that strongly affects energy status, energy acquisition and metabolism (Schreck et al., 2016). By triggering stress responses and enhancing the energetic demand, pollution could thus alter the energy allocation between traits, creating the potential for divergence in correlated physiology-behavior nexus (Killen et al., 2013).

On one hand, stressors could have revealing effects on syndromes by strengthening the links between traits (Killen et al., 2013). Accordingly, the anxiolytic oxazepam drug induced a correlation between boldness and activity in perch *Perca fluviatilis*, which was only present after exposure to the drug (Brodin et al., 2013). On the other hand, the adverse neurophysiological effects of stressors could limit the capacity of fish to express the full range of behaviors, and reduce the phenotypic variations observed, thereby masking any relationship between traits that was apparent under mild or single stressor exposure (Killen et al., 2013). In this case, stressors could have masking effects on syndromes by weakening any link between traits. For instance, fluoxetine decreased the behavioral correlations across contexts in Siamese fighting fish *Betta splendens* (Dzieweczynski et al., 2016). In other cases, stressors had no effects on behavioral nor physiological correlations, such as in damselflies *Ischnura elegans* exposed to zinc (Debecker and Stoks, 2019). The effects of pollution on syndromes are thus not clear yet and deserve further investigations. The existing literature suggest that pollutants indeed affect the structure of syndromes (i.e., the links between traits) by affecting the physiological-behavior nexus, but their specific effects seem to depend on the nature/dose/duration of stressors.

In addition, syndrome structure can be shaped by past natural selection, and have important implications for evolutionary trajectories. Indeed, natural selection could select for particular combinations of physiological, behavioral and cognitive traits (Conrad et al., 2011; Sih et al., 2012). For instance, predation favors the correlation between boldness and aggressiveness in *Gasterosteus aculeatus* populations coexisting with predators, because fish that are bolder and more aggressive are more likely to escape predators and survive (Bell and Sih, 2007; Dingemans et al., 2007). It is also possible that pollution could select for particular trait combinations, but few studies tested this hypothesis (see **Table 1**). In addition, behavioral syndromes could have different evolutionary implications depending on the underlying mechanisms such as genetic correlations or physiological trade-offs (Bell and Aubin-Horth, 2010; Conrad et al., 2011; Dochtermann and Dingemans, 2013). For instance, genetic correlations resulting from gene pleiotropy could potentially constrain the evolution of behavioral responses to pollutants. In this case, behavioral correlations would be relatively stable across environments, because such correlations will be difficult to break apart via selection (Dochtermann and Dingemans, 2013). On the other hand, syndromes resulting from physiological trade-offs resulting from resource allocation could potentially change across environments, so that different trait combinations could be found in natural populations

depending on levels of pollution, resource availability and/or other stressors (Bell and Aubin-Horth, 2010; Killen et al., 2013). However, there is currently a lack of knowledge on the underpinnings of behavioral correlations and syndromes in wild fish exposed to pollution and their implications for evolutionary trajectories (Conrad et al., 2011) (Table 1). Because syndrome structure could facilitate or impede opportunity for adaptive evolution (Sih et al., 2012; Dochtermann and Dingemanse, 2013), further studies testing the effects of pollution on behavioral syndromes are now necessary to refine our ability to predict the evolutionary effects of pollution on behavior.

EVOLUTIONARY DIVERGENCE IN BEHAVIOR UNDER POLLUTION

Interestingly, the burgeoning literature in evolutionary ecotoxicology has shown that some fish populations having evolved under chronic pollution have divergent response to an experimental contamination, suggesting local adaptation to pollutants (Bélanger-Deschênes et al., 2013; Oziolor et al., 2016; Brady et al., 2017). For instance, killifish *Fundulus heteroclitus* from highly contaminated environments have evolved genetic-based physiological ability to cope with organic pollutants (Reid et al., 2016; Whitehead et al., 2017). Some studies also investigated the divergence in behavior caused by pollution, but empirical evidence of behavioral local adaptation to pollution through genetic evolution and/or plasticity is still scarce. For instance, brown bullhead fish *Ameiurus nebulosus* from a polluted river had a higher aggressiveness than fish from an unpolluted river, but only F0 fish collected in the field were tested (Breckels and Neff, 2010). In this case, it is difficult to disentangle the genetic and plastic components of the observed behavioral divergence in F0 generation, which limits our ability to predict the consequences of pollution across generations. In another study, guppies *Poecilia reticulata* having evolved in Trinidadian rivers polluted by polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) had a lower exploratory tendency compared to fish from unpolluted rivers after several generations raised in common garden conditions (F1 to F3 generations), suggesting genetic-based behavioral divergence among populations (Jacquin et al., 2017). However, other studies on the same model species showed little evidence of adaptive plasticity that would limit the deleterious effects of pollutants on fitness, especially in unpolluted environments (Rolshausen et al., 2015; Hamilton et al., 2017). This suggests that adaptation to pollution might be maladaptive in unpolluted environments, but more studies are now needed to disentangle the relative role of plasticity and genetic-based evolution in this potential maladaptation (Rolshausen et al., 2015; Hamilton et al., 2017; Brady et al., 2019).

In addition, the evolutionary effects of pollutants remain difficult to disentangle from other environmental stressors in the wild, maybe because multiple stressors might exert conflicting selective pressures (Jansen et al., 2011; Saaristo et al., 2018). Adaptation to a particular stressor (e.g., contamination) might for instance impede the adaptation to another stressor (e.g., parasite). Thus, adaptation to pollution might come at a cost,

depending on additional stressors (e.g., Dutilleul et al., 2017). For instance, tolerance to pesticides is associated with increased susceptibility to diseases in some amphibians and crustaceans (e.g., Hua et al., 2017; Jansen et al., 2011). In the same vein, European flounder *Platichthys flesus* populations living in contaminated rivers display a lower tolerance to thermal stress, although the underlying mechanisms remain to be determined (Lavergne et al., 2015). On the other hand, some physiological adaptations to one stressor could confer advantages against additional stressors (co-tolerance, Vinebrooke et al., 2004). For instance, some families of Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* that are tolerant to high-temperature are also more tolerant to hypoxia, because of increased heart ventricle size and myoglobin levels, although the evolutionary implications are still unclear (e.g., Anttila et al., 2013). In another study, some *Daphnia magna* populations are co-adapted to warming and increased toxicity (Zhang et al., 2018). However, most previous studies focused on physiological and life-history traits, so that the evolution of behavioral traits in a multiple stress framework remains unclear. It is possible that some behavioral and cognitive responses to pollution could bring fitness benefits in polluted environments, but come at a cost in other environments. For instance, we could hypothesize that decreased exploration caused by pollution (e.g., Jacquin et al., 2017; Grunst et al., 2018) could limit toxicant uptake in polluted areas, but have detrimental effects when food becomes scarce, because exploration brings benefits in terms of foraging (Reader, 2015). In other words, pollution might change the balance between costs and benefits of information processing in animals, but the expected outcome for fish fitness and evolutionary trajectories might depend on several environmental and social factors that remain to be investigated.

Finally, plasticity (and hence behavioral plasticity) generally plays an important role in evolutionary responses to anthropogenic conditions (Price et al., 2003; Ghalambor et al., 2007; Hendry et al., 2008; Sih et al., 2011). Behavioral changes could drive evolutionary changes by exposing individuals to new conditions (so-called “behavioral drive”) or in the contrary limit evolutionary changes if plastic behavioral changes are sufficient to mitigate the fitness effects of pollution (Huey et al., 2003; Sol et al., 2005). Plastic behavioral responses to pollution could thus promote or impede genetic selection depending on environmental conditions, by facilitating or limiting the move from one adaptive peak (e.g., past unpolluted environment) to another adaptive peak (e.g., new polluted environment) in the adaptive landscape (Price et al., 2003; West-Eberhard, 2003; Ghalambor et al., 2007; Sih et al., 2011). However, some emerging pollutants such as new pesticides, pharmaceuticals, plastics, and nanoparticles are new chemicals that fish have never encountered in their environment in the past, so that polluted environments might represent evolutionary novel conditions. Past evolution is thus unlikely to generate suitable behavioral responses to pollution that could enhance fitness, although this might strongly depend on the species and on the type and dose of stressor (Sih et al., 2011). Pollution-induced behavioral changes could thus potentially generate maladaptive effects and generate evolutionary traps (Sih et al., 2011; Brady et al., 2019), but this hypothesis remains to be tested.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, the existing literature underlines the need to take into account pollution and their associated behavioral, cognitive and fitness effects in a multistress context to better understand the complex responses of wild fish to pollution and their potential feedback loops. In addition, pollutants and multiple stressors can affect the physiology-behavior nexus and modify syndrome structure, which could generate interpopulation divergence in behavior and personality. Future work should now determine the evolutionary forces promoting such behavioral variability in the face of increasing pollution, and their implication for the evolutionary trajectories of wild populations. With this study, we hope to encourage future studies to bridge the gap between ecotoxicology, behavioral ecology and evolutionary ecology to better anticipate the effects of pollutants on evolutionary processes and population resilience in anthropized ecosystems.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

All datasets generated for this study are included in the article/supplementary material.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

LJ drafted the initial version of the manuscript. All authors contributed to the writing and revising of the manuscript.

FUNDING

This work was supported by a grant from Agence de l'Eau Adour-Garonne (PHYPAT project), the CNRS EC2CO ECODYN program, the ZA PYGAR (CNRS) and the CPER ECONAT. The EDB laboratory is part of the Laboratory of Excellence “TULIP” (ANR-10-LABX-41; ANR-11-IDEX-0002-02).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the reviewers for their constructive comments. We also thank Annie Perrault, Myriam Cousseau, Louana Riem, Emilie Rojas, Flavien Garcia, Aurélie Goutte, Stéphane Bétouille, Simon Blanchet, and Géraldine Loot for assistance and discussions at different stages of this study.

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- Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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