

## ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

# Biomarker response of climate change induced ocean acidification and hypercapnia studies on brachyurian crab *Portunus pelagicus*

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**ABSTRACT:** A laboratory level microcosm analysis of the impacts of ocean acidification on the environmental stress biomarkers in *Portunus pelagicus* (Linneaus 1758) exposed to a series of pH regimes expected in the year 2100 (pH 7.5 and 7.0) and leakage from a sub-seabed carbon dioxide storage site (pH 6.5 - 5.5) was carried out. Levels of the antioxidant enzyme catalase, the phase II detoxification enzyme, glutathione S. transferase, the lipid peroxidation biomarker, malondialdehyde, lipid peroxidase, acetylcholinesterase, reduced glutathione and were estimated in the tissues of the exposed animals to validate these enzymes as biomarkers of Hypercapnia. The integrated biomarkers indicated a stress full environment in all animals except those exposed to the control seawater (pH 8.1). The reducing pH was also observed to be highly lethal to the animals exposed to lower pH levels which were obvious from the rate of mortality in a short term of exposure. The present study substantiates the role of biomarkers as early warning of ocean acidification at a sub-lethal level.

**KEYWORDS:** *Microcosm; CO<sub>2</sub>; Hypercapnia; Portunus pelagicus; Sublethal.*

## INTRODUCTION

Oceans are a major global carbon sink, absorbing one-third of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, thereby significantly mitigating global warming (Caldeira and Wickett, 2003; Royal Society, 2005; GACGC, 2006; Denman *et al.*, 2007). The continuous influx of CO<sub>2</sub> into the oceans leads to a decline in the calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) saturation state of the seawater ( $\Omega$ ) in conjunction with decreasing pH, collectively termed as ocean acidification (Broecker *et al.*, 1971; Bacastow and Keeling, 1973; Kleypas *et al.*, 1999; Caldeira and Wickett, 2003; Andersson *et al.*, 2005; Orr *et al.*, 2005; Bandibas and Hilomen, 2016). The series of changes that accompanies this phenomenon of ocean acidification has serious repercussions on the carbon

budget of the seawater, leading to 1% dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> which includes carbonic acid (H<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>) and that leaves 91% of bicarbonate (HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>) and 8% carbonate (CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>) in the carbonate system of the seawater (Portner, 2008). These changes lower the saturation state of CaCO<sub>3</sub>, with detrimental consequences for organisms that depend on CaCO<sub>3</sub> for the formation of shells and skeletons (Browman *et al.*, 2008). Atkinson and Cuet (2008) defined the saturation state of CaCO<sub>3</sub> as its thermodynamic probability to either form or dissolve and is the product of the reacting ions divided by the product of the concentrations of those ions when the mineral is at equilibrium ( $K_{sp}$ ), that is, when the mineral is neither forming nor dissolving. As provided in Eq.1 the value  $\Omega > 1$  thermodynamically favors the formation of CaCO<sub>3</sub> where as the value  $\Omega < 1$  indicates the thermodynamic favorability of the dissociation of CaCO<sub>3</sub> mineral.

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$$\Omega = \frac{[\text{Ca}^{2+}][\text{CO}_3^{2-}]}{K_{\text{sp}}} \quad (1)$$

The corrosive nature of the seawater induced by ocean acidification has the potential to decline  $\Omega$  from the present day value of 3-3.5 to 2-2.5 in the tropics in another hundred years (Orr *et al.*, 2005). This will have a serious impact on the rate of calcification  $\text{CaCO}_3$  in marine animals, inhibiting their ability to build and maintain shells and skeletons. Apart from affecting the rate of calcification, the increasing partial pressure of  $\text{CO}_2$  ( $p\text{CO}_2$ ) in seawater also disturbs the equilibrium in the concentration of  $\text{CO}_2$  between the seawater and the cells of the marine animals, which in turn disrupts the rate at which the cells remove excess  $\text{CO}_2$  formed within, thereby leading to respiratory acidosis (Rogelj *et al.*, 2009). Respiratory acidosis negatively impacts metabolism and cellular functions. Though few animals are capable of overcoming the problem of respiratory acidosis the validity of adaptation for a longer term is under question.

The responses of calcifying organisms to increased  $\text{CO}_2$  and lower pH are often complex (Delille *et al.*, 2005; Langer *et al.*, 2006; Anthony *et al.*, 2008; Ries *et al.*, 2009; Erez *et al.*, 2011; McCulloch *et al.*, 2012;

Andersson & Gledhill, 2013; Venn *et al.*, 2013) and can be difficult to evaluate with confidence (De'ath *et al.*, 2009). However it is well understood that the overall process of ocean acidification induces hypoxia, oxidative stress by increased ROS and algal toxins all of which affects the marine calcifiers by their synergetic impacts (Mostafa *et al.*, 2016). Hence the present study was designed with a goal to estimate the potential impacts of ocean acidification and hypercapnia on environmental stress biomarkers indicative of exposure to reactive oxygen species. Sensitive biochemical techniques were used to detect sub lethal impacts of ocean acidification combined with additional environmental stressors on adult brachyurian crab *Portunus pelagicus* (Linnaeus, 1758) in a microcosm experiment with a series hypercapnia levels expected in the year 2100 and leakage from a sub-seabed  $\text{CO}_2$  storage site (Widdicombe and Needham, 2007). This study was carried out in the Gulf of Mannar province during October and December 2015.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Collection and acclimation of test animals

Adult specimens of *Portunus pelagicus*, taxonomically identified after Turkey (2001) were

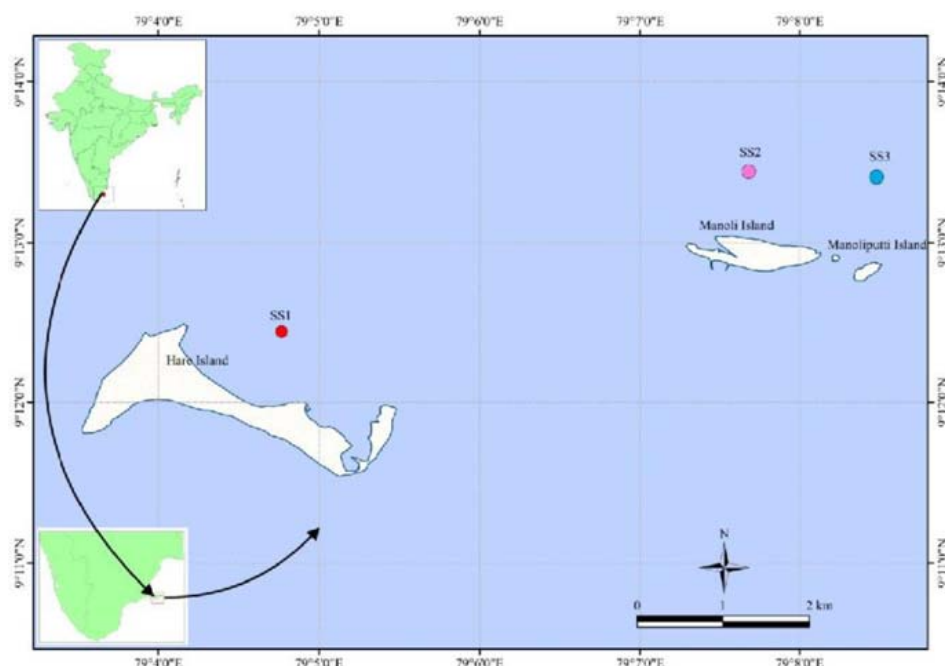


Fig. 1: The R-GIS image representation displaying the sampling universe in the Gulf of Mannar. SS1 sampling site near Hare island, SS2 sampling site near Manoli island and SS3 sampling site near Manoliputti island

collected from the coral reef ecosystem of three chosen islands viz. Hare island, Manoli island and Manoiputti island of the Gulf of Mannar province (9°12'8.5"N and 79°4'8.7"E (Fig 1). The collected animals were immediately transferred to the Marine Field Research Laboratory, Pudhumadam, Ramanathapuram and acclimated in filtered seawater for seven days at ambient conditions. The animals were fed twice a day with minced squid and 100% water exchange was carried out by siphoning every 24 hours to remove excess organic load. During the period of acclimation the water quality parameters viz. temperature (28±1°C), salinity (35 psu), dissolved oxygen (5±1 mg/L) and total alkalinity (2730 – 2735 µ eq/Kg) were monitored and maintained at ambient levels.

#### Microcosm environment

The microcosm set up (Fig 2.) was designed as per the descriptions by Widdicombe and Needham (2007) and Dupont *et al.* (2008). The system was designed to release a continuous flow of gas into the seawater until desired pH was achieved. The system mainly consisted of two chambers namely a mixing

chamber and the incubation chamber. The seawater was perturbed in the mixing chamber and transferred to the incubation chamber where the animals were exposed and incubated (Priya *et al.*, 2016). Six different microcosm chambers with the pH regimes 8.1 (control), 7.5, 7.0, 6.5, 6.0 and 5.5 were used in the present study. The pH 7.5 used as the upper limit in the present study approximated the *seacarb* output and the modeled decrease in surface ocean pH by 2100 under the IPCC A2 SRES scenario of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Caldeira and Wickett, 2005), whereas the pH 7.0 to 5.5 mimicked the pH levels expected at a sub sea bed CO<sub>2</sub> leakage site.

#### Seawater perturbation

Bubbling seawater with CO<sub>2</sub> is an efficient way to manipulate the carbonate system of the seawater as it mimics the natural process. The *seacarb* function p<sub>gas</sub> was used to estimate the changes in the carbonate chemistry of seawater due to induced hypercapnia (Gattuso and Lavigne, 2009). This approach reproduced the changes in the carbonate chemistry of the seawater due to the pCO<sub>2</sub> changes expected in the year 2100. The present study utilized the pH stat

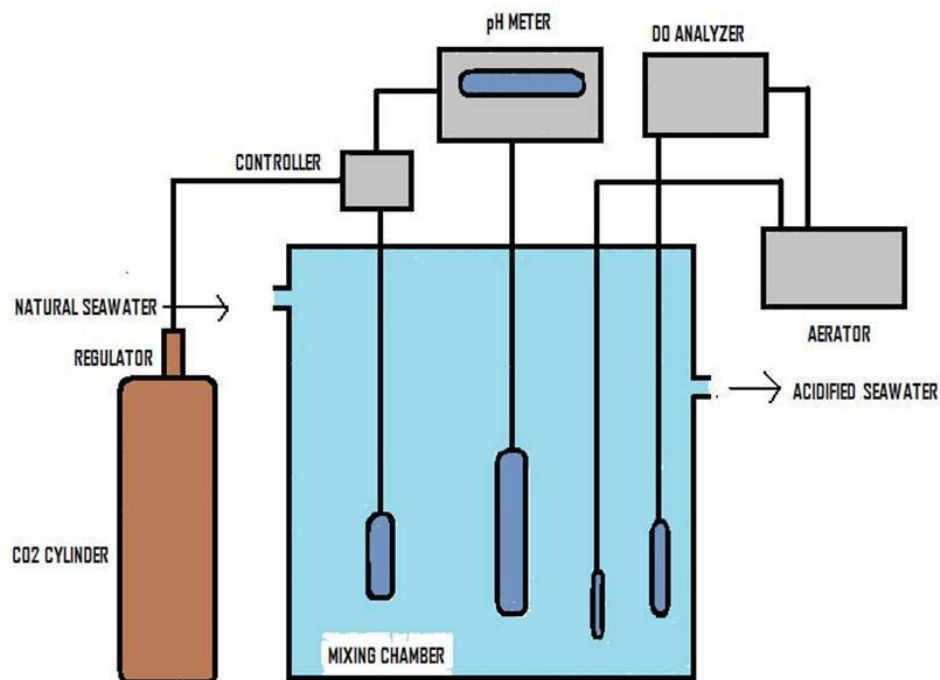


Fig. 2: Experimental Layout

system for manipulation in which a mixture of air and pure CO<sub>2</sub> was bubbled in seawater at the rate of 5 L/min until a desired pH value was obtained and the gas flow was cut off when the pH goes above or below the set value. All the calculations were carried out using the first and second dissociation constants of carbonic acid as described by [Leuker et al. \(2000\)](#).

#### *Medium term exposure to stressor*

Two healthy adult specimens were weighed and randomly allocated in each incubation chamber irrespective of their sex. The chambers were then maintained at 12:12 hours Light: Dark regime to mimic the natural solar irradiation. Feeding was stopped and proper aeration was ensured throughout the experimental period of 15 days. Water was completely replaced by fresh perturbed seawater for every 24 hours to reduce excess ammonia load. The experiment was carried out in triplicate and repeated twice. The behavior of the exposed animals was closely monitored. Mortality was confirmed by permanent opening of the mouth and immovable limbs.

#### *Physico-chemical status of perturbed seawater*

The seawater variables [pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), temperature and total alkalinity (TA)] were closely monitored for every six hours throughout the period of exposure. The pH of the water was monitored using Oakton pH 700 bench top meter, where as Oakton waterproof DO 300 was used for measuring DO and Comark PDQ 400 high accuracy thermometer for temperature. 100 mL of subsamples were collected in every 24 hours and subjected to TA analysis with the procedure adopted from River Watch Network (1992).

#### *Rate of mortality*

The exposed animals were carefully monitored and any immobile animals were immediately removed and preserved at -40°C to prevent tissue degradation until further examination viz. protein and biomarker estimation.

#### *Biomarker analysis*

After exposure, the animals were withdrawn and subjected to dissection. The shells of the animals were carefully removed and the muscle tissue was dissected for further analysis. One gram of tissue was weighed washed in 0.85% saline and utilized for each of the following assays.

#### *Protein*

Levels of protein per gram tissue of the exposed animals were estimated by the method of [Lowry et al. \(1951\)](#) using a Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA) standard.

#### *Catalase (CAT)*

The levels of CAT in the tissue of the exposed animals were estimated as described by [Sinha \(1972\)](#). The CAT activity was measured by reading the absorbance of chromic acetate at 570 nm, which was formed as intermediate while heating dichromate acetic acid mixture in the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.

#### *Lipid peroxidation (LPx)*

Methods of [Okhawa et al. \(1979\)](#) was followed for estimation of lipid peroxidation in the tissues of the exposed animals. Malondialdehyde (MDA), a breakdown product of lipid peroxides, readily reacts with thiobarbituric acid (TBA) under acidic conditions to give a colored reaction product. The MDA-TBA reaction products were measured at 532 nm using a spectrophotometer.

#### *Acetylcholinesterase (AChE)*

[Ellman et al. \(1961\)](#) was followed to assay the activity of AChE. The reaction of thiocholine, formed from the substrate analogue acetyl choline iodide, with the chromogenic substrate 5-5'-dithiobis (2 nitro benzoic acid) (DTNB) leads to the formation of a yellow anion, nitrobenzoic acid, which absorbs strongly at 412 nm.

#### *Reduced glutathione (GSH)*

The methods proposed by [Moron et al. \(1979\)](#) were followed to assay GSH levels. GSH can be measured by its reaction with DTNB to give a compound that absorbs at 412 nm.

#### *Glutathione S Transferase (GST)*

As per [Habig et al. \(1974\)](#) the GST activity was assayed spectrophotometrically at 340 nm by measuring the rate of 1-chloro 2, 4-dinitro-benzene (CDNB) conjugation with reduced glutathione as a function of time.

#### *Statistical analysis*

Since all data were normally distributed (P>0.05 as per Shapiro wilk's test) two way analysis of variance

(ANOVA) was performed to estimate the significance of the microcosm performance and one way ANOVA was carried out to estimate the significance of the change in each biomarker at each nominal pH regime. A P value < 0.05 was considered significant and all the statistical analysis was carried out using SPSS version 17.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Changes in CO<sub>2</sub> microcosm environment

The scientific evidence so far in the field of climate change research proves 0.1 unit fall in the surface ocean pH since the industrial revolution and further 0.5 units decrease by 2100 (Caldeira and Wickett, 2005). Most of the studies on ocean acidification prefers short term acute exposure (hours to days) to extremely high pCO<sub>2</sub> conditions (Hypercapnia) over medium or long

term exposure (weeks to months) to more relevant pCO<sub>2</sub> conditions. Despite the conditions that are much higher than the levels projected for future climate change scenarios, these studies are invaluable because they provide a mechanistic basis for understanding differences in the sensitivity of marine invertebrate taxa to ocean acidification (Fabry *et al.*, 2008, Pörtner 2008, Widdicombe and Spicer 2008, Melzner *et al.*, 2009, Hale *et al.*, 2011). The present study here in employs pH regimes expected in the year 2100 and from sub seabed CO<sub>2</sub> leakage. The experiments conducted so far in this area have focused only on direct effects even though indirect effects are highly plausible (Guinotte and Fabry, 2008); therefore the present study was employed to estimate the sub lethal effects of ocean acidification on the environmental stress faced by the marine animals.

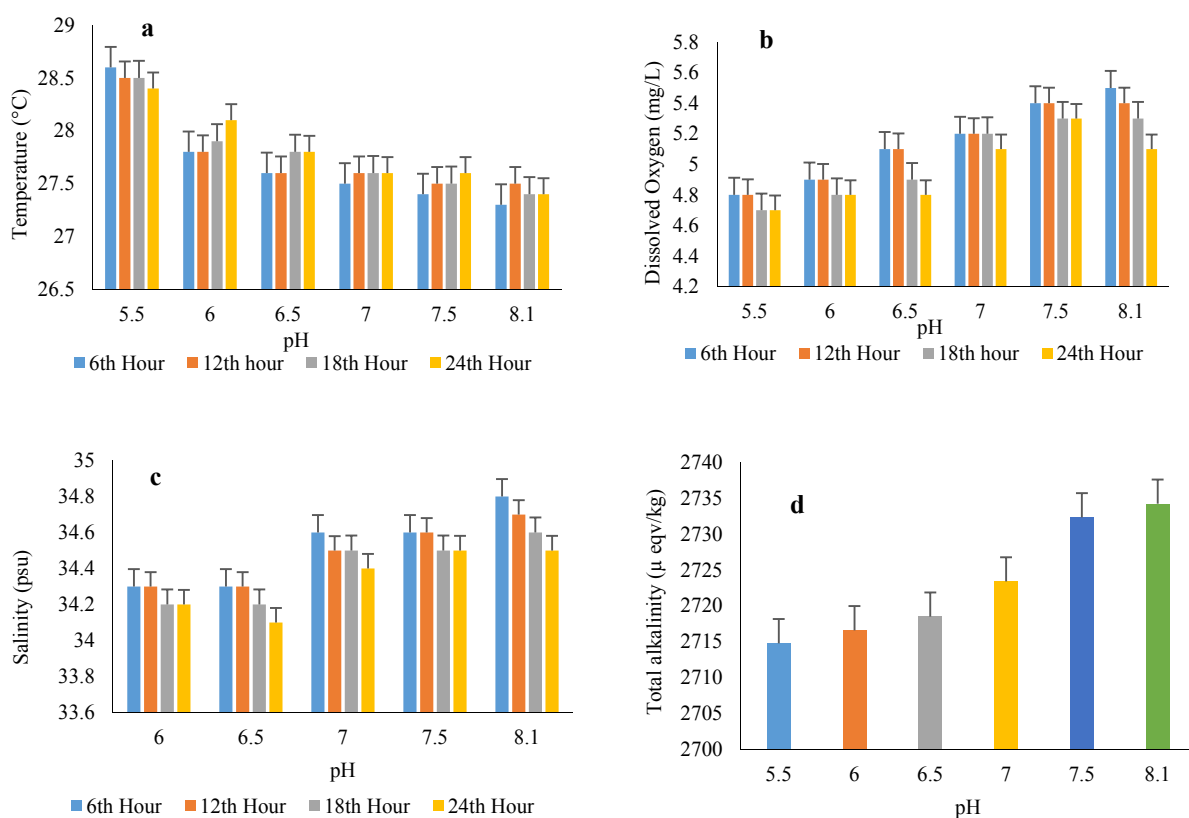


Fig 3: a) Mean changes observed in the temperatures of the microcosm chambers as a function of pH  
 b) Mean changes observed in the DO of the microcosm chambers as a function of pH  
 c) Mean changes observed in the salinity of the microcosm chambers as a function of pH  
 d) Mean changes observed in the total alkalinity of the microcosm chambers as a function of pH

Biomarkers are valuable inexpensive tools which can be detected even at sublethal concentration of any stressor thereby giving us an early warning on the degradation of environmental quality.

The observations of the physico - chemical parameters in the incubation chamber revealed significant changes that have been summarized in Fig. 3a-d. The pH of the seawater was remained constant and significant changes were observed in the remaining variables at each nominal pH. The highest mean ( $\pm$  SD) temperature ( $28.6^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 0.08$ ) was observed in pH 5.5 and the lowest as  $27.3^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 0.08$  which was observed in pH 8.1. The level of DO gradually decreased with decreasing pH, the highest level as  $5.5 \pm 0.2$  which was observed in pH 8.1 and the lowest as  $4.7 \pm 0.05$  in pH 5.5. Unlike DO the salinity level increased with decreasing pH, with the highest salinity as  $34.8 \pm 0.1$  psu being observed in pH 5.5 and the lowest as  $34 \pm 0.2$  psu in pH 8.1. The alkalinity level in the seawater decreased gradually with the pH. The control seawater exhibited a total alkalinity level of  $2734 \mu\text{atm}$  which was the highest and the pH 5.5 exhibited the lowest level of  $2714 \mu\text{atm}$ .

#### *Survival of the exposed animals*

A visible sign of mortality was observed in all the animals exposed to the hypercapnic conditions especially at pH 5.5, where as the animals in the control seawater was found to be healthy. Mortality was confirmed by the permanent opening of the mouth and immobile limbs. Complete mortality was observed in pH 5.5 within 72 hours of exposure whereas no mortality was observed in the remaining pH regimes.

#### *Biomarker analysis*

Biomarkers are valuable inexpensive tools which can be detected even at sublethal concentration of any stressor thereby giving us an early warning on the degradation of environmental quality. Most of the organisms have developed a complex antioxidative system with the intention to protect cellular membranes and organelles from the destructive effects of toxic retention of reactive oxygen species (ROS). Oxidative stress can have three levels of effect on an organism. The first effect is the antioxidant response to eliminate pro-oxidants and thus prevent oxidative damage. When this first response fails

an elevation of total antioxidant capacity in blood, altered activity of antioxidant enzymes occurs due to cell damage. Hence, for self defense, the organisms stimulate the activities of free radical scavenging biomarker enzymes like superoxide dismutase (SOD), CAT and GPx (Nagarani et al., 2011). The last level involves larger scale general physiological effects such as perturbation of growth, impaired ability to handle other stresses, and death. Increase in the CAT activity has been reported in various fish and invertebrate species (Di Giulio et al., 1993; Stephensen et al., 2000) whereas inhibition of CAT has been suggested as a transitory response to acute pollution (Regoli and Principato, 1995).

#### *Protein*

The level of total protein gradually decreased with decreasing pH. The animals exposed to the control seawater exhibited the highest level ( $4.24 \text{ mg/g tissue}$ ) where as the animals exposed to pH 6.0 had the lowest level ( $0.65 \text{ mg/g tissue}$ ). The detailed summary of the results is expressed in Fig 4a.

#### *Catalase (CAT)*

CAT activity decreased with decreasing pH (Fig. 4b). Significant inter pH difference was observed in CAT activity. The highest activity ( $0.02 \text{ H}_2\text{O}_2$  consumed/min/mg protein) was observed in control whereas the lowest activity ( $0.017 \text{ H}_2\text{O}_2$  consumed/min/mg protein) was observed in pH 6.0. In the present study the CAT activity increased with decreasing pH. Previous study by Bebianno et al., 2005 inferred that CAT removes most of the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  by increasing its activity however it can not compete with excess presence of Fe which generate HO radicals via the Fenton reaction, thereby causing increased concentration of LP. The increased activity of both CAT and LP in the present study indicates that CAT activity in the muscles of *Portunus pelagicus* is not sufficient to eliminate  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  before the formation of hydroxyl radicals as it has been suggested above.

#### *Lipid peroxidation (LPx)*

Significant differences in malonaldehyde levels were observed among the nominal pH levels. The activity was observed to be gradually decreasing with decreasing pH (Fig 4c). The animals exposed to control seawater exhibited highest activity ( $0.14 \text{ nanomoles of MDA per milligram of tissue protein}$ )

whereas the animals exposed to pH 6.0 exhibited lowest activity (0.06 nanomoles of MDA per milligram of tissue protein).

*Acetylcholinesterase (AChE)*

Significant inter-pH differences were observed among the treatment groups. Unlike CAT and LPx,

the activity of AChE increased with decreasing pH (Fig. 4d). Highest activity (0.02 μmol AChE min/mg protein) was observed in pH 6.0 and the control expressed lowest activity (0.0005 μmol AChE min/mg protein). Numerous studies demonstrated the effectiveness of AChE measurement as a biomarker of exposure to neurotoxic compounds in aquatic

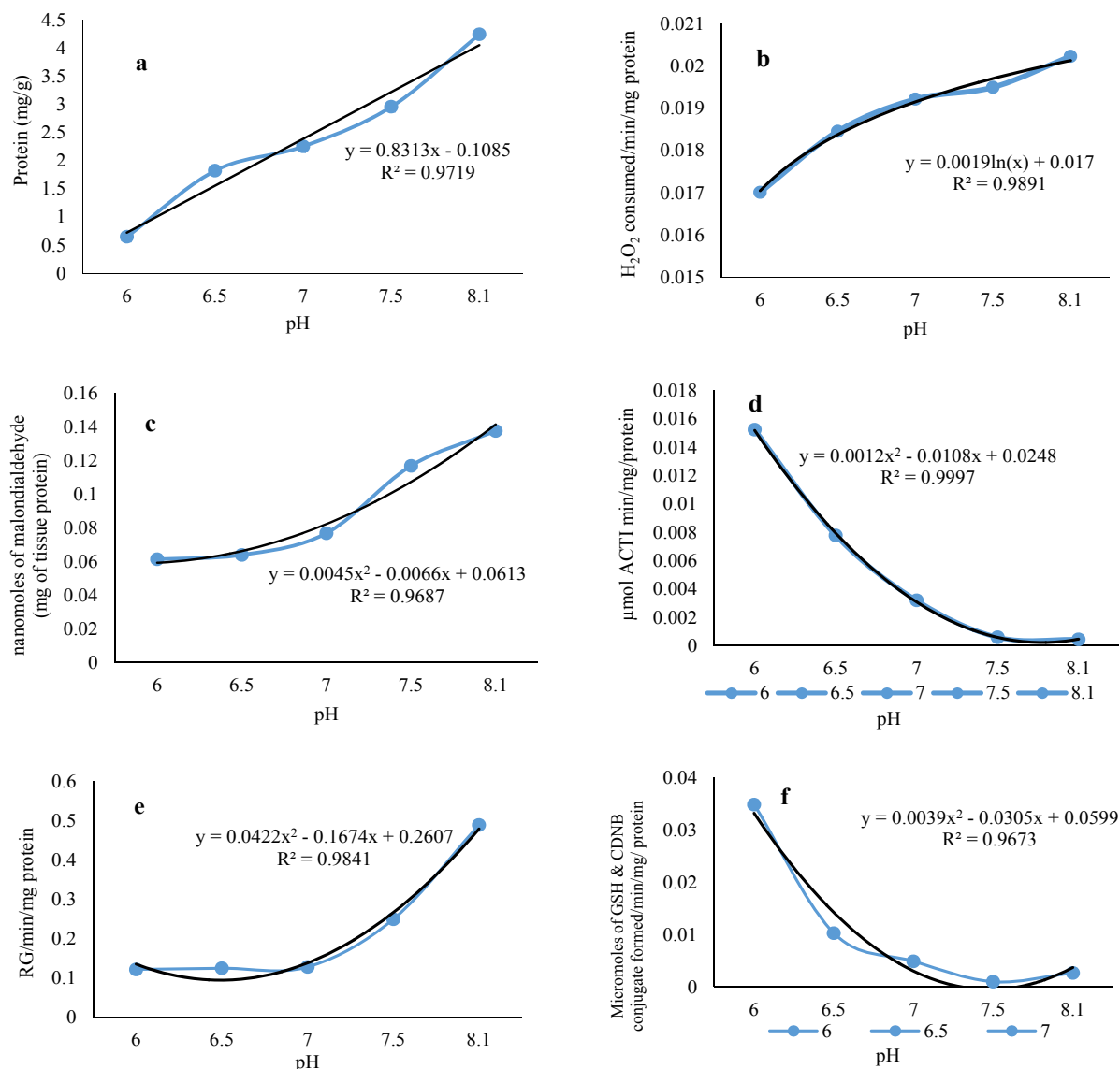


Fig 4: a) Effects of reduced pH on level of proteins in the tissue of the exposed Portunus pelagicus  
 b) Effects of reduced pH on CAT levels in the tissue of the exposed Portunus pelagicus  
 c) Effects of reduced pH on LPx levels in the tissue of the exposed Portunus pelagicus  
 d) Effects of reduced pH on AChE levels in the tissue of the exposed Portunus pelagicus  
 e) Effects of reduced pH on GSH levels in the tissue of the exposed Portunus pelagicus  
 f) Effects of reduced pH on GST levels in the tissue of the exposed Portunus pelagicus

Table 1: Regression analysis of the effects of hypercapnia on biomarkers and protein

S. No	Biomarker	Regression R <sup>2</sup>	Trend
1	Lipid peroxidase	0.9687	Polynomial
2	Catalase	0.9891	Logarithmic
3	Reduced Glutathione	0.9841	Polynomial
4	Glutathione S Transferase	0.9673	Polynomial
5	Acetylcholinesterase	0.9997	Polynomial
6	Protein	0.9719	Linear

organisms (Cajaraville *et al.*, 2000). In the present study significant variations in the AchE activity of *Portuus pelagicus* muscle tissues were recorded. However the increase in activity do not confirms the impact of neurotoxic compounds on animals due to decreasing pH. AChE-inhibiting neurotoxic compounds can cause serious dysfunction in aquatic organisms, e.g., behavioural changes, paralysis and death (Fulton and Key, 2001). As a consequence, AChE has been employed as a useful biomarker in biomonitoring studies (Escartín and Porte, 1997; Radenac *et al.*, 1998; Mora *et al.*, 1999; Daïlianis *et al.*, 2003).

#### Reduced glutathione (GSH)

The level of GSH decreased with decreasing pH (Fig. 4e). The changes in the activity were observed to be statistically significant between the treatment groups. Animals exposed to control pH exhibited the highest activity (0.49 min/mg protein) whereas the lowest activities were observed at pH 6.0 (0.12 min/mg protein). Glutathione is responsible for the regulation of intracellular levels of lipid peroxidation and also acts as a reactant in conjugation with electrophilic substances, therefore change in GSH levels may be a very important indicator of the detoxification ability of an organism (Vijayavel *et al.*, 2004). The decrease in the level of glutathione observed in the preset study may be due to the enhanced oxidative damage caused by free radicals, which concur with the findings of Doyotte *et al.* (1997) in aquatic invertebrates exposed to trace metals. Glutathione S-transferase (GST) in conjunction with glutathione (GSH) detoxifies lipid hydroperoxides from the system (Saliu *et al.*, 2012).

#### Glutathione S Transferase (GST)

An increase in activity of GST was observed with decreasing pH and the inter-pH differences were observed to be statistically significant (Fig. 4f). The highest activity (0.04  $\mu$ mol of GSH and CDNB

conjugate formed/min/mg protein) was observed in animals exposed to pH 6.0 whereas the animals exposed to pH 8.1 expressed the lowest activity (0.003  $\mu$ mol of GSH and CDNB conjugate formed/min/mg protein). Although GST induction has been widely demonstrated following exposure to some organic contaminants (Stephensen *et al.*, 2000), its inhibition has also been reported as a non-specific response to chemical challenge (Regoli *et al.*, 2003). However, the decrease in GSH content observed in the muscle tissues of *Portunus pelagicus* exposed to hypercapnia may be attributed to insufficient glutathione regeneration as proposed by Kurutaş *et al.* (2008).

#### Statistical Analysis

All dependent variables have been expressed as mean  $\pm$  S.D. The P value was less than 0.05 for CO<sub>2</sub> microcosm performance and the biomarker analysis. The value of R<sup>2</sup> obtained for each biomarker analysis has been displayed in Table 1. All the biomarkers investigated in the present experiment exhibited a clear pattern of significant impact ( $p < 0.05$ ). The activity of CAT, LPx and GSH exhibited positive correlation where as the activity of AChE and GST exhibited negative correlation. Each biomarker had a R<sup>2</sup> value nearer to 1 there by exhibiting a perfect fit to their respective trend lines. While considering the changes in the seawater variables, highly significant changes ( $p < 0.05$ ) were observed in all the parameters both within and between groups. However the variation in the temperature and salinity observed at each hour (between groups) was observed to be marginally significant and hence proving the serious inter relationship between the variables and the pCO<sub>2</sub> induced hypercapnia.

#### CONCLUSION

In the present study the cost effective and simple biochemical tools were employed to monitor the climate change induced ocean acidification and



hypercapnia impact on *Portunus pelagicus*. The study concluded that even a 0.5 unit fall in pH could be highly fatal to sensitive crustaceans like *Portunus pelagicus* which is obvious from the high rate of mortality even for a very short period of exposure. The study revealed that the biomarkers act as a promising tool for monitoring ocean acidification and Hypercapnia impacts on marine calcifying organism *Portunus pelagicus*.

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#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author declares that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this manuscript.

#### ABBREVIATIONS

$\mu atm$	Micro atmospheres
$\mu equ/Kg$	Micro equivalents per kilogram
$\mu mols\ min/mg$	Micro moles per minute per milligram
<i>AChE</i>	Acetyl choline esterase
<i>ANOVA</i>	Analysis of variance
<i>BSA</i>	Bovine serum albumin
$^{\circ}C$	Degree celsius
<i>Ca</i>	Calcium
<i>CAT</i>	Catalase
<i>CDNB</i>	Chloro di nitro benzene
$CO_2$	Carbon dioxide
$CO_3$	Carbonate
<i>DO</i>	Dissolved oxygen
<i>DTNB</i>	5,5'-dithiobis-(2-nitrobenzoic acid)
<i>Fe</i>	Iron
<i>GPx</i>	Glutathione peroxide
<i>GSH</i>	Reduced glutathione
<i>GST</i>	Glutathione S transferase
$H_2CO_3$	Carbonic acid
$H_2O_2$	Hydrogen peroxide
$HCO_3$	Bicarbonate
<i>HO</i>	Hydroxide radicals
<i>IPCC A2 SRES</i>	Intergovernmental panel on climate change A2 special report on emission scenario
<i>Ksp</i>	Dissociation constant
<i>L/min</i>	Litres per minutes

<i>LP</i>	Lipid peroxide
<i>LPx</i>	Lipid Peroxidation
<i>MDA</i>	Malone di aldehyde
<i>Mg/g</i>	milligrams per gram
<i>Mg/L</i>	milligrams per litre
<i>mL</i>	milli litre
<i>nm</i>	Nano Meter
<i>nmol</i>	Nano moles
<i>pCO<sub>2</sub></i>	Partial pressure of carbon dioxide
<i>psu</i>	Practical salinity unit
<i>P/p value</i>	Probability value
<i>R<sup>2</sup></i>	Regression value
<i>ROS</i>	Reactive oxygen species
<i>SD</i>	Standard Deviation
<i>SOD</i>	Sulphur oxide dismutase
<i>SPSS</i>	Statistical package for the social sciences
<i>TA</i>	Total alkalinity
<i>TBA</i>	Thio barbituric acid
$\Omega_{Ar}$	Aragonite Saturation State
$\Omega_{Ca}$	Calcite Saturation State

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