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Published in:
Marine Ecology - Progress Series Online

Link to article, DOI:
10.3354/meps09830

Publication date:
2012

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Link back to DTU Orbit

Citation (APA):
Seasonal dynamics of fecundity and recruitment of *Temora longicornis* in the Baltic Sea

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ABSTRACT: The seasonal cycle of reproduction in *Temora longicornis* was investigated in the Bornholm Basin, Baltic Sea, from March 2002 to May 2003. Variations in egg production of the population (EPR) and spawning females (sfEPR, ~ clutch size), proportion of spawning females (%FS), egg hatching success (HS), female prosome length (PL) and weight-specific egg production (spEPR) were compared with the seasonal variations in temperature, salinity, and food concentration and composition. Females reproduced year round with maxima of 9.8 to 12.3 eggs female⁻¹ d⁻¹ in spring and low to moderate egg production during the remaining seasons. PL was maximal during spring, and %FS, sfEPR and spEPR paralleled egg production. HS was low during winter and increased in spring. The statistical analyses showed that mean egg production correlated with both sfEPR and %FS. While %FS was significantly related to food concentration, sfEPR was dependent on both food availability and PL, which in turn was inversely related to temperature. Salinity had no effect on the seasonal variation in egg production because females maintained their vertical position in water with low seasonal amplitudes in salinity and temperature, presumably to avoid high energetic costs due to osmoregulation under fluctuating salinity. Nevertheless, the costs due to osmoregulation during development likely resulted in small female PL, and thus indirectly affected reproduction. Using empirical non-linear regression, 80% of the seasonal variation in egg production of *T. longicornis* was explained by female length and food concentration. However, despite the pronounced seasonal variation in egg production, the recruitment of nauplii was continuously high except throughout the productive season, indicating that a low reproductive success was offset by female abundance.

KEY WORDS: Fecundity · Hatching success · *Temora longicornis* · Baltic Sea · Food · Temperature · Body mass

INTRODUCTION

In the temperate ocean, calanoid copepods show a pronounced seasonal variation in population abundance, which is controlled by offspring recruitment and mortality (Kiørboe & Nielsen 1994, Peterson & Kimmerer 1994). Female egg production and egg viability constitute the initial steps in the recruitment process and essentially initiate population growth (Kiørboe & Nielsen 1994, Peterson & Kimmerer 1994).

Numerous laboratory and field studies have identified the variables that control copepod reproductive rates, which can fluctuate widely on a daily to seasonal basis. Water temperature and food concentration are the principal determinants of copepod fecundity, either directly or indirectly via their effect on female body size (Landry 1978, Runge 1985, Durbin et al. 1992, Kiørboe & Nielsen 1994), but various other factors are known to affect egg production, such as phytoplankton cell size (Dam & Peterson
1991, Kørboe & Nielsen 1994), food quality in terms of mineral or biochemical composition (Jónasdóttir et al. 1995, Peters et al. 2007) or presence of noxious species (Van Rijswijk et al. 1989, Devreker et al. 2005) and suspended sediments (Castellani & Altunbaş 2006). In contrast, the variation in egg viability and egg hatching success is largely related to maternal effects such as female nutrition or resting egg production (Castellani & Lucas 2003, Paffenhöfer et al. 2005).

While the variables determining egg production and egg viability are generally well understood, our knowledge on the control of reproduction and recruitment of a species in specific environments is incomplete. Temperate copepod species often display a wide geographical distribution, and the relative importance of the variables controlling reproductive success and recruitment likely differ over the distribution range, depending on regional conditions. This information is pivotal for understanding the effect of climate variability and change on copepod recruitment and population dynamics, and its linkage to higher trophic levels in the coastal ocean.

In the present study, we investigated the reproductive biology of Temora longicornis in the Baltic Sea. This species has a wide geographical distribution, ranging from sub-tropical to sub-polar marine shelf waters on both sides of the North Atlantic (e.g. CPR Survey Team 2004). The reproductive biology of T. longicornis has been subject to several investigations, but the period of observation and the number of explored variables have often been limited (e.g. Arendt et al. 2005, Wesche et al. 2007). Recent studies conducted over the complete seasonal cycle suggest that the regulation of the reproductive success of T. longicornis is rather complex, but is nevertheless primarily controlled by the seasonally variable body mass of females (Halsband & Hirche 2001, Devreker et al. 2005, Castellani & Altunbaş 2006). This contrasts with results from earlier investigations in which food availability was identified to govern egg production (Kierboe & Nielsen 1994, Peterson & Kimmerer 1994).

Apart from a description of the seasonal variation in egg production (Hansen et al. 2006), the environmental control of reproductive success and recruitment of Temora longicornis in the Baltic Sea is unknown. Analyses of inter-annual variation in the abundance and biomass of this species suggest that abiotic variables exert a strong control on the population dynamics, presumably due to the effects of reduced salinity of the brackish water and the pronounced amplitude of seasonal temperature variation on the vital rates of T. longicornis (Dippner et al. 2000, Möllmann & Köster 2002, Hänninen et al. 2003). Here we aimed to compare the respective importance of abiotic and biotic variables in controlling the reproductive success of T. longicornis in the Bornholm Basin, a deep basin (~100 m) in the western Baltic Sea. In particular, we wanted to (1) describe in detail the seasonal variation in egg production and egg hatching success of the species, (2) identify the relative significance of temperature, salinity, body mass and food availability in the regulation of the seasonal variation in egg production, and (3) estimate to what extent the seasonal recruitment of nauplii is controlled by variations in reproductive success.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sampling

Plankton was collected during a series of 15 cruises to the Bornholm Basin, central Baltic Sea, between March 2002 and May 2003 at a centrally located station (55° 17.5’ N, 15° 45’ E, 95 m depth, Fig. 1). Additional stations north and south from the central station were irregularly sampled during some months. Copepods were collected by vertical net tows of a WP-2 net equipped with a non-filtering cod end (200 μm mesh size, towing speed 0.2 m s⁻¹) from 50 m to the surface. The catch was carefully diluted into a large bucket containing unfiltered seawater from the surface (during autumn to spring) or from below the thermocline (during summer) and brought into a

Fig. 1. Study area and sampling stations for Temora longicornis egg production experiments in the Bornholm Basin, Baltic Sea; open cross: central station for the seasonal study of reproduction in individual incubations; circle, triangles and cross indicate additional, irregularly sampled stations
temperature-controlled walk-in chamber set to ambient water temperatures. Females of *Temora longicornis* were sorted within 10 to 30 min after collection.

At each station, a standard CTD probe (SeaBird 911+ or ADM) was lowered from the surface to close to the seabed to obtain vertical profiles of temperature (\( T, ^\circ C \)) and salinity (\( S, \) as measured on the practical salinity scale). Microplankton samples were collected with a rosette of Niskin bottles from 5 to 10 discrete water depths, depending on the stratification pattern, and fixed with acidic Lugol’s solution (2% final concentration). Sampling was conducted from March 2002 to April 2003. The microplankton taxonomic composition and biomass were analysed as described in detail by Van Beusekom et al. (2009). In short, after concentration in settling chambers, phyto- and microzooplankton were counted with an inverted microscope at 200× to 400× magnification and then classified into taxonomic categories. Cell dimensions of each category were measured, and cell volume was converted to carbon biomass (Edler 1979, Putt & Stoecker 1989). Estimates of standing stocks of nauplii and copepodites were taken by vertical tows of a Multinet (0.25 m\(^2\), 50 μm mesh size, Hydrobios, towing speed 0.1 m s\(^{-1}\)) and double oblique tows with a Bongo net (0.12 m\(^2\), 48 μm sieve to remove any eggs). During autumn, winter and spring, the sea water was collected at 5, 10 and 15 m depth with Niskin bottles and mixed in equal shares. During summer, when the seasonal thermocline had formed, the seawater was taken at 2 depths below the thermocline (10 and 15 m) because females generally occurred below the warm upper layer. The chambers were kept for 24 h in a temperature-controlled water bath at the ambient water temperatures (±0.2°C), under dim light with natural light/dark regimes. Incubations were stopped by removing the females with the inner compartment. The content of the spawning chambers was carefully concentrated on a 20 μm sieve and flushed into dishes. The eggs were counted with a dissecting microscope at dim, cool light; empty egg shells were included in the egg counts. Afterwards, eggs were pooled and transferred to 275 ml glass bottles containing GF/F filtered seawater and incubated at ambient temperature for the determination of hatching success (HS). In addition, some eggs were incubated in parallel in Petri dishes containing GF/F filtered sea water, to determine the hatching time. The hatching incubations were stopped when the eggs in the Petri dishes had hatched. The incubation time ranged from 3 d (August to September) to 13 d (December to February). Bottle contents were concentrated, and remaining eggs, empty egg shells and hatched nauplii were fixed in Lugol’s solution (2% final concentration) and counted in the laboratory.

The condition of females was visually inspected; incubations with dead females were not included in the calculation of the egg production rate (EPR). The prosome length (PL) of all live females was measured under a dissecting microscope at 60× magnification (resolution: 15 μm). The carbon weight of females was calculated using a length–weight conversion factor established by Köster (2003). Egg volume was determined from the diameter of at least 30 eggs per experiment, and egg carbon was estimated by applying a conversion factor of 0.31 × 10\(^{-6}\) μg C μm\(^{-3}\) (Dutz et al. 2008; egg diameter 81 μm). During winter, eggs were scarce and data were pooled from several cruises (November to February). Weight-specific egg production rates (spEPR) were calculated as egg carbon produced per day divided by female carbon. The percentage of females spawning (%FS) out of all females was calculated as the ratio between the numbers of females that produced eggs and the total number of incubated individuals. Spawning female egg production rate (sEPR) represents the EPR of only those females that spawned and is equivalent to the sum of egg clutches laid within a day.

In order to estimate the contribution of *in situ* egg production to the seasonal recruitment, we compared the stocks of eggs and nauplii. For this, the daily egg production of the *Temora longicornis* population (popEPR) was estimated from the mean egg production rate and the mean integrated abundance of females in the Bornholm Basin. Assuming a steady state, the egg stock (eggs m\(^{-2}\)) was calculated by multiplying popEPR by embryonic development time, which was estimated from the Bělehrádek function given by Corkett & McLaren (1970). In order to calcu-
late the standing stock of nauplius stage 1 (N1) from the total nauplii stock (N, nauplii m$^{-2}$), which was not stage separated, we assumed an exponential decrease in abundance with a seasonally constant instantaneous mortality rate ($\mu$) of stages (i) N1 to N5 of 0.15 d$^{-1}$ (Kiørboe & Nielsen 1994) and a seasonal stage duration ($t$, d) of nauplii given by Dutz et al. (2010, see their Table 2) according to:

$$N1 = \frac{N}{\sum_{i=0}^{5} e^{-\mu t_i}}$$  \hfill (1)

**Data analysis**

Relationships between environmental (temperature, salinity, concentration of different food items and total food) and biological variables (PL, mean EPR, mean sfEPR, %FS, HS) were first tested with Spearman rank order correlation analysis. Linear or non-linear regressions were then used to establish empirical relationships between the pairs of variables that were significantly correlated, using environmental variables as independent and biological variables as dependent variables. Linear functions were used to relate PL to environmental factors (Checkley 1980), while exponential and Ivlev functions were used to investigate the relation of egg production (mean EPR, sfEPR) to PL and food concentration, respectively, in non-linear regressions (Durbin et al. 1992). When the relationship was unknown, functions providing the best fit were used.

*Temora longicornis* females displayed a variable depth distribution with a seasonal submergence below the warm surface layer and diel vertical migration during the stratification period (Dutz et al. 2010). Therefore, the weighted means of $T$ and $S$ (WM$_T$ and WM$_S$) were determined over the depth range of the female distribution according to:

$$WM_T = \frac{\sum n_i T_i}{\sum n}$$  \hfill (2)

where $n_i$ is the abundance of each stage $i$ (ind. m$^{-3}$) in each depth stratum with a mean $T_i$ of $T_i$ (similar for $S$). Averages of day and night WM$_T$ and WM$_S$ were used for analyses of reproductive data. Regarding food, we used the day/night means of the average concentration of various protist groups over the depth range of the occurrence of females. For the regression of female PL with $T$, $S$ and food stock (integrated over 0 to 50 m) were averaged over the period of cohort development, which was estimated from the stage durations (see Dutz et al. 2010 and Table 1 for details). The statistical analyses were carried out using the means of PL, EPR and sfEPR of each experiment because the data for single females failed the constant variance tests. All statistical analyses were performed with the Sigma Plot 11.0 and SPSS 11.5 statistical packages (Systat Software).

**RESULTS**

**Environmental conditions**

Characteristic of the hydrographical conditions in the Bornholm Basin was a brackish water layer with <8 salinity extending to depths of 40 to 50 m which overlaid a bottom layer of higher salinity (8–15, Fig. 2a). In the brackish layer, a seasonal thermocline formed from May until October, which separated the warm surface layer (10–21°C) from the colder inter-
mediate layer (4–10°C, Fig. 2b). Several saline water inflows at depths >60 m occurred from September 2002 to February 2003 (see Mohrholz et al. 2006 for details), which increased the salinity in the bottom layer to >18. Temperature at depth increased to 10–11°C due to a relatively warm inflow in September 2002 and remained high until December 2002, but decreased below 4°C with a cold water inflow in January 2003. Due to the uplifting of the bottom water, the intermediate layer was eroded from September 2002 onwards.

*Temora longicornis* females were generally distributed in the brackish water at depths of 0 to 50 m (see details in Dutz et al. 2010). As indicated by the seasonal variation in the weighted mean depth at daytime (Fig. 2), females occurred in the upper mixed layer from November to April and in the intermediate water from May to October. Due to this seasonal submergence into the colder intermediate layer, the temperature amplitude experienced by females (weighted mean: 2.2–12.9°C) was generally less than the seasonal variation in surface water temperature (1.8–21.3°C; Fig. 3a). Until August 2002, females occurred in rather cold water (3.4–7.9°C), only interrupted by the migration into the warm surface at night (10.3°C) in June 2002. From September to November 2002, vertical migration and also the erosion of the cold intermediate water by the warm water inflows increased the environmental temperature to 9.1–12.9°C. In winter, the temperatures decreased again to 2.2–6.1°C until May 2003. In contrast to temperature, the salinity experienced by females changed little (7.4–8.4, Fig. 3b). In June 2002, however, larger day/night differences of 7.2 to 9.5 occurred due to the deep residence depth of females during the day.

**Fig. 2.** Seasonal and vertical variation in (a) salinity and (b) temperature at the central station in the Bornholm Basin during January 2002 to August 2003. Circles denote the weighted mean depth of *Temora longicornis* females during day (open) and night (filled).
The concentration and composition of protists showed a pronounced seasonal variation (Fig. 4a,b). Due to the seasonal submergence and diel vertical migration, the food concentration experienced by females during May/July to September was generally lower than food availability in the surface 30 m of the water column. Total food biomass increased from approximately 60 μg C l⁻¹ in March in both years to 518 and 158 μg C l⁻¹ in April 2002 and 2003, respectively. Ciliates and dinoflagellates almost exclusively accounted for the protists; diatoms contributed considerably to total protists only in March 2003. From May onwards, food biomass experienced by the females generally fluctuated from 57 to 91 μg C l⁻¹ until October, with a minimum of 22 μg C l⁻¹ in July 2002. Flagellates and ‘other’ (Table 1), which was dominated by cyanobacteria, were most abundant during the summer. They were replaced by ciliates in September/October 2002. The winter biomass was low and did not exceed 20 μg C l⁻¹. Flagellates and ciliates (Mesodinium rubrum) accounted for most of the food available in winter.

Reproductive cycle of Temora longicornis

Females reproduced throughout the year, but mean EPR varied considerably depending on the season (Fig. 5a). It was high in April in both years, with a mean (±SE) daily rate of 12.3 ± 1.8 and 9.8 ± 1.7 eggs female⁻¹ (hereafter eggs fem⁻¹) for 2002 and 2003, respectively. Moderate mean EPR ranging from 4.2 ± 0.7 to 6.8 ± 1.1 eggs fem⁻¹ d⁻¹ was observed in March and May 2002/2003 and in October 2002. Egg production was low during summer and winter (0.4 ± 0.1 to 2.0 ± 1.4 eggs fem⁻¹ d⁻¹). The %FS and their sfEPR mirrored the mean EPR (Fig. 5b,c). %FS was generally high in spring (53−73%) and autumn (73−80%), while mean sfEPR was maximal only in April 2002/2003 (~18 eggs fem⁻¹ d⁻¹). HS was variable (range: 35−96%) and, with the exception of 3 sampling points in April and November 2002 and January 2003 (20−40%), mostly >63% (Fig. 5d). The calculated mean spEPR was maximal in spring and autumn, similar to EPR (Fig. 5e). The reproductive indices of females caught at the periphery of the Bornholm Basin generally resembled those at the central station (Fig. 5a–d). Female abundance increased substantially from 2 × 10³ to 156 × 10³ ind. m⁻² during May 2002 and decreased again during August and September 2002 to a low overwintering stock (5 × 10¹ to 8 × 10¹ ind. m⁻², Fig. 5f). The ratio in female/male abundance fluctuated around 1, with values varying from 0.6 to 1.3 (Fig. 5f). A low female/male ratio was observed in summer 2002 and spring 2003.

The mean PL (±SE) of females varied seasonally (Fig. 6). It was maximal during March to May (822 ± 12 to 869 ± 14 μm) and minimal during July to October (748 ± 10 to 793 ± 15 μm). The length frequency distribution indicated that PL was very variable at each sampling date; small and large females were present throughout the study, but their proportions changed seasonally.

Factors controlling reproduction

Mean egg production of females correlated significantly with the mean sfEPR, %FS, mean PL and, among the environmental variables, with the concen-
Fig. 5. *Temora longicornis*. Seasonal variation in (a) mean (±SE) egg production (EPR), (b) spawning frequency (%FS), (c) mean (±SE) spawning female egg production (sfEPR), (d) egg hatching success (HS), (e) mean (±SE) specific egg production (spEPR) and (f) female abundance and female:male ratio (F:M) at the central station (filled circles) and supplemental stations (denoted as in Fig. 1) in the Bornholm Basin during March 2002 to August 2003. Grey lines show the model predictions for (a) mean EPR, (b) %FS and (c) mean sfEPR (see Table 4).

Fig. 6. *Temora longicornis*. Seasonal variation in length (solid line) and length frequency (bars) of females at the central station in the Bornholm Basin during March 2002 to August 2003. The horizontal lines at the bottom of the figure indicate succession of female generations as described by Dutz et al. (2010).
tration of ciliates (Cil), dinoflagellates (Dino) and total food (TF, Table 2). SF EPR and %FS were also correlated with each other, reflecting the tendency that when a high proportion of females spawned, egg production was also high. SF EPR correlated significantly with PL, Cil and TF, and negatively with T, while %FS was highly correlated only with food (Cil, Dino, TF).

Hatching success was positively correlated with the concentration of dinoflagellates and negatively with that of diatoms. Mean PL correlated negatively with T and the stocks of flagellates, ‘other’ and TF and positively with S in the period June 2002 to April 2003.

Linear functions gave the best fit for the relation of mean EPR with mean SF EPR and %FS (Fig. 7a, b). The

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sfEPR</th>
<th>%FS</th>
<th>HS</th>
<th>PL</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>Cil</th>
<th>Dino</th>
<th>Flag</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Diat</th>
<th>TF</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPR</td>
<td>0.958*** 0.715*** 0.191 0.540* −0.323 0.016 0.800*** 0.503** 0.427 0.071 0.069 0.643**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>sfEPR</td>
<td>0.541* 0.085 0.591** −0.459* −0.073 0.734*** 0.352 0.297 0.144 −0.104 0.518*</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>%FS</td>
<td>0.085 0.191 0.139 0.197 0.709*** 0.541** 0.409 0.069 0.298 0.691***</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS</td>
<td>−0.124 0.250 0.259 −0.035 0.599** 0.379 0.331 −0.457* 0.275</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL</td>
<td>−0.685** 0.851*** −0.430 −0.359 −0.709** −0.915*** 0.091 −0.685*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Table 2. Temora longicornis. Spearman rank order correlation coefficients between biological and environmental variables in the Bornholm Basin, Baltic Sea, during March 2002 to April 2003 (number of observations: 20). Note that for mean prosome length (PL) the averaged environmental conditions during cohort development instead of instantaneous conditions were used for correlation analysis (see ‘Materials and methods’, number of observations: 17). EPR: mean egg production rate; sfEPR: mean EPR of spawning females, %FS: proportion of females spawning, HS: hatching success, T: temperature, S: salinity, Cil: biomass of ciliates, Dino: biomass of dinoflagellates, Flag: biomass of flagellates, Diat: biomass of diatoms, Other: biomass of non-specified protists, TF: total food (= biomass of protists). Significance levels: *p < 0.05; **p < 0.01; ***p < 0.001

Fig. 7. Temora longicornis. Relationships of (a) mean (±SE) egg production (EPR) to mean (±SE) spawning female egg production (sfEPR), (b) mean EPR (±SE) to spawning frequency (%FS), (c) %FS to total food concentration (TF) and (d) mean (±SE) prosome length (PL) to temperature (°C). Regressions are (a) EPR = −0.31 + 0.65 sfEPR (df = 19, r² = 0.94, F = 289.9, p < 0.001) and (b) EPR = −2.1 + 0.11 %FS (df = 19, r² = 0.36, F = 10.2, p = 0.005); for (c) and (d) see ‘Results: Factors controlling reproduction’ and Tables 3 & 4.
The relationship of both variables to correlating environmental variables was therefore investigated separately. An exponential function and an Ivlev function were chosen to investigate sfEPR in relation to PL and TF concentration, respectively, using non-linear regression (Checkley 1980, Durbin et al. 1992). The non-linear regression gave significant results for both variables. PL and TF alone explained 62 and 48% in the variation of sfEPR, respectively, and a combination of both increased the explanatory power of the non-linear model to 74% (Table 3). sfEPR also showed a negative correlation with $T$ (Table 2). Adding $T$ to the regression using an exponential function (Sekiguchi et al. 1980, Durbin et al. 1992) did not produce significant results, but removed the significance of PL as variable (results not shown). The relationship of %FS and TF has previously not been described. Of various functions tested, only the Ivlev function produced significant results (Fig. 7c). Using this function, TF explained 61% of the variation of %FS (Table 3). Finally, mean EPR was significantly related to PL (exponential function) and TF (Ivlev function) using a non-linear model (Table 3). PL and TF alone explained 61 and 57% of seasonal variation in EPR, respectively, but combined both variables explained 80% of the variation in EPR.

The relationship of PL to environmental factors was investigated using linear functions (Checkley 1980). A multiple linear regression using $T$, $S$ and TF only gave a significant negative relationship to $T$ (Table 4, Fig. 7d). The model coefficient suggested a decrease of 13 μm in length with an increase of 1°C in temperature.

### Recruitment

With the exception of winter (November to February), daily egg production of females and female abundance were inversely related to each other during the seasonal cycle (Fig. 5a,f). Accordingly, the calculated stock of eggs and viable eggs showed relatively little seasonal variation (Fig. 8). The egg stock for summer/autumn (206 × 10³ to 1980 × 10³ eggs m⁻²) was in a similar range as that calculated for the period of maximal egg production in spring (March to May, 119 × 10² to 1593 × 10³ eggs m⁻²). Recruitment was low only in winter (35 × 10³ eggs m⁻²). Except June 2002 and winter (November to February), the calculated standing stock of nauplius stage N1 was high (>1.6 × 10⁴ m⁻²) during the seasonal cycle and largely mirrored the seasonal variation in the stock of eggs (Fig. 8).

### Table 3. Temora longicornis.

Non-linear regression of mean spawning female egg production (sfEPR, eggs fem⁻¹ d⁻¹), the proportion of spawning females (%FS) or mean female egg production (EPR, eggs fem⁻¹ d⁻¹) as a function of mean female prosome length (PL, μm) and/or total food concentration (TF, μg C l⁻¹). Significance levels: **p < 0.05, ***p < 0.01. Number of observations was 20 for all models

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated model</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>a (± SE)</th>
<th>b (± SE)</th>
<th>c (± SE)</th>
<th>$F$</th>
<th>$R^2$</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sfEPR = a exp(bPL)</td>
<td>1, 18</td>
<td>5.5 × 10⁻² ± 2.1 × 10⁻⁶</td>
<td>0.019 ± 0.004***</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sfEPR = a (1−e⁻bTF)</td>
<td>1, 18</td>
<td>18.8 ± 4.8***</td>
<td>0.006 ± 0.002**</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>&lt;0.001***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sfEPR = a exp(bPL) (1−e⁻cTF)</td>
<td>2, 17</td>
<td>9.4 × 10⁻¹ ± 3.1 × 10⁻⁴</td>
<td>0.014 ± 0.003***</td>
<td>0.019 ± 0.006***</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%FS = a + b (1−e⁻cTF)</td>
<td>2, 17</td>
<td>8.7 ± 13.1</td>
<td>65.9 ± 5.8***</td>
<td>0.041 ± 0.012***</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPR = a exp(bPL)</td>
<td>1, 18</td>
<td>6.0 × 10⁻⁵ ± 3.3 × 10⁻⁸</td>
<td>0.024 ± 0.006***</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPR = a (1−e⁻bTF)</td>
<td>1, 18</td>
<td>13.2 ± 3.5***</td>
<td>0.005 ± 0.002**</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>&lt;0.001***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPR = a exp(bPL) (1−e⁻cTF)</td>
<td>2, 17</td>
<td>5.5 × 10⁻³ ± 2.1 × 10⁻⁴</td>
<td>0.014 ± 0.004***</td>
<td>0.015 ± 0.005***</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 4. Temora longicornis.

Multiple linear regression of mean prosome length (PL, μm) as a function of temperature ($T$, °C), salinity ($S$) and total food (TF, g C m⁻²). Coefficients and significance are the best fit for a stepwise backward regression. Significance levels: **p < 0.001. n: number of observations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated model</th>
<th>Coefficient</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>F (to remove)</th>
<th>F (to enter)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PL = a + b $T$ + c $S$ + d TF</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>903.1</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>50.658</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>&lt;0.001***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n = 17, df = 1, 15</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>−13.1</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.467</td>
<td>0.505</td>
<td>0.111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R² = 0.77</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>2.871</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>0.0001***</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DISCUSSION

In the western regions and central basins of the brackish Baltic Sea, *Temora longicornis* is a key species and forms an important diet for pelagic fish (Flinkman et al. 1998, Möllmann & Köster 2002). Long-term studies suggested a strong link of vital rates, including egg production, and biomass of the species to the climatically driven variation in surface seawater temperature and salinity (Dippner et al. 2000, Möllmann & Köster 2002, Hänninen et al. 2003), but the underlying mechanisms remain unresolved as the population dynamics and its governing variables are insufficiently understood. In this context, our investigation provides the first analysis of the seasonal variation and control of reproductive success of *T. longicornis* in the Baltic Sea. Below we discuss the seasonal variation in the reproductive parameters of *T. longicornis*, its control by environmental factors in the Baltic Sea, how this compares to other regions of the species occurrence and the contribution of individual egg production to the recruitment of nauplii.

Reproductive success of *Temora longicornis* in the Baltic Sea

The seasonal variation in the reproductive success of *Temora longicornis* in the brackish Bornholm Basin largely resembled that in marine areas. Similar to *T. longicornis* in the North Sea, the Kattegat or the Irish Sea (e.g. Kårboe & Nielsen 1994, Halsband & Hirche 2001, Castellani & Altunbaş 2006), reproduction continued throughout the year, with a minimum during winter, a pronounced increase in spring and subsequent peaks in egg production, which is typical for seasonally variable environments. However, compared to marine studies, the maximal EPR of Baltic females under surplus food was considerably reduced. Rates of 7 to 12 eggs fem\(^{-1}\) d\(^{-1}\) in spring in the Bornholm Basin compare well with earlier results from the same area (Hansen et al. 2006), but are much lower than the rates of >40 to 50 eggs fem\(^{-1}\) d\(^{-1}\) observed in spring in marine areas (Peterson & Bellantoni 1987, Kårboe & Nielsen 1994, Halsband & Hirche 2001, Castellani & Altunbaş 2006). This indicates that the brackish conditions influence the reproductive performance of *T. longicornis* (see below: ‘Factors controlling egg production’).

The seasonal variation in %FS is poorly studied in *Temora longicornis*. The proportion was very variable and particularly low during winter and early summer, which is consistent with observations from the North Sea (Halsband & Hirche 2001, Wesche et al. 2007), whereas a continuously high frequency was observed in the English Channel (Devreker et al. 2005).

HS was also variable, but generally >60% throughout the productive season. This is in agreement with various other marine studies (Tang et al. 1998, Devreker et al. 2005, Wesche et al. 2007). A pronounced switch from high to low HS during spring associated with resting egg production as reported by Castellani & Lucas (2003) was not observed in our study. Instead, HS increased during the winter to spring transition. The correlation analysis suggested a negative relationship of HS with the presence of diatoms and a positive relationship with the abundance of dinoflagellates. This is consistent with an adverse effect of diatoms on copepod reproduction (Ianora et al. 2003, Paffenhöfer et al. 2005, Dutz et al. 2008). However, food concentrations were very low during winter time (<20 μg C l\(^{-1}\)) and also in July 2002, during which diatoms were nearly absent and hatching was also low. Therefore, the general physiological condition of females might have been poor at these times and may have caused a decrease in HS.

Factors controlling egg production

In previous field investigations, egg production of *Temora longicornis* and other copepods has mainly been related to temperature, chlorophyll a concentration and female size (e.g. Landry 1978, Checkley 1980, Runge 1985, Durbe et al. 1992, Kårboe &...
Salinity

Salinity is known to exert a strong effect on egg production of copepods of brackish (Ambler 1985, Devreker et al. 2009) or marine origin (Calliari et al. 2008, Holste et al. 2009). Copepods adjust their bodily free amino acid and ionic concentrations upon osmotic stress, which can be energetically costly under a fluctuating or sub-optimal salinity (Farmer & Reeve 1978, Goolish & Burton 1989). Accordingly, in a recent study with cultures of Temora longicornis, a decrease in egg production with decreasing salinity (26 to 8) was attributed to the costs of ionic regulation (Holste et al. 2009).

The seasonal cycle of the reproductive success of Temora longicornis in the Bornholm Sea revealed no relationship with salinity, likely due to the minor fluctuations in the depth range at which the species resided. Nevertheless, the considerably lower maximal egg production under optimal food conditions in spring compared to those reported from the marine environment likely indicate a strong environmental constraint by the brackish water conditions. Our results, however, suggest that the small size of Baltic females rather than costs of osmoregulation primarily limit egg production in the field. The maximal egg production of T. longicornis is generally related to its size/body mass (Arendt et al. 2005, Castellani & Altunbaş 2006, this study), and females in the Bornholm Basin were considerably smaller (maximum 869 μm) compared to those in marine water (maximum >1200 μm, Halsband & Hirche 2001, Arendt et al. 2005), which is consistent with a dependence of copepod body length on environmental salinity (Gaudy et al. 1988, Miliou 1996). The calculated weight-specific egg production, in contrast, was similar to marine studies. Considering that we used a 2.3 times higher factor for the conversion of egg volume to egg carbon (consistent with Dam & Lopes 2003) than older studies, maximal weight-specific rates of 0.11 to 0.16 d⁻¹ for all females or 0.19 to 0.22 d⁻¹ for spawning females (to account for a low spawning frequency in our study) compare well with those of 0.05 to 0.09 d⁻¹ (corrected by 2.3: 0.12 to 0.21 d⁻¹) observed in marine field and laboratory studies (Kleppel et al. 1991, Kierboe & Nielsen 1994, Koski et al. 2005). If energetic costs related to osmoregulation were high in females (Holste et al. 2009), a lower weight-specific egg production would be expected. This is consistent with low maintenance costs for osmoregulation in euryhaline Acartia spp. under hypo-osmotic conditions (Goolish & Burton 1989, Calliari et al. 2006). The small size of Baltic females, however, suggests that growth of development stages is more negatively affected by salinity stress than egg production is. This could be explained by the proportionally higher energetic expenditures in smaller juvenile stages compared to larger adults as ionic turnover rates have been related to size (Brand & Bayly 1971). The costs related to osmoregulation in different developmental stages of Temora longicornis and their influence on production therefore require further investigation.

Throughout the year, females were typically distributed in the surface and intermediate water with a reduced salinity and avoided entering the more saline bottom water. Moreover, females migrated below the warm surface layer after onset of the seasonal stratification. As a consequence, the seasonal amplitude in temperature (2 to 13°C) and in salinity (7.4 to 8.4) experienced by females was generally low. This behaviour might reflect the strategy of females to minimize environmental stress and to optimize energy allocation for egg production. Under food-limiting conditions, Maps et al. (2005) observed that at temperatures higher than 14°C the metabolic needs of females increase to the detriment of egg production. Thus, females apparently stayed in a temperature window optimal for egg production at low food conditions during summer. Instantaneous changes in salinity are also known to negatively affect egg production, development and survival of brackish and marine copepods (Cervetto et al. 1999, Lee & Petersen 2003, Calliari et al. 2008, Devreker et al. 2009), presumably because the up- or down-regulation of the osmotic potential following a hyper- or hypo-osmotic shock is energetically expensive (Farmer & Reeve 1978, Goolish & Burton 1989). This can be substantially amplified by increasing temperature (Gaudy et al. 2000). In contrast, maintenance costs for osmoregulation under uniform conditions are low (Farmer & Reeve 1978, Goolish & Burton 1989, Calliari et al. 2006) and could explain the habitat preference of females for the brackish water layer.
Female size, temperature and food

Female size, temperature and food concentration, although not always simultaneously measured, have been identified as the major variables determining the seasonal variation in egg production of pelagic copepods, including *Temora longicornis* (e.g. Runge 1985, Durbin et al. 1992, Castellani & Altunbaş 2006). In our study, we analysed environmental effects on sfEPR and %FS separately, because both variables correlated highly with egg production of *T. longicornis*. sfEPR in the Bornholm Sea was largely determined by variation in female body length and available food concentration, while the %FS was related to food concentration only. Empirical models based on non-linear regression of both variables explained 74 and 59% of the variation in sfEPR and %FS, respectively, and projected their seasonal variation well (Table 4; Fig. 5b,c).

The variables determining sfEPR have rarely been studied in *Temora longicornis*. A general positive scaling of egg production with the size of *T. longicornis* is known from the North Sea and Irish Sea (Devreker et al. 2005, Castellani & Altunbaş 2006). This scaling is likely related to the reproductive biology and gonad development, in which oocytes mature synchronously and are deposited as eggs in 1 clutch, similar to *Calanus* (Niehoff 2007). In *Calanus* spp., clutch size is related to gonad size, which, in turn, depends on female size and food concentration (Runge 1984, Hirche et al. 1997, Plourde & Joly 2008). A significant correlation of clutch size with female length and phytoplankton carbon has been observed for *T. longicornis* in the North Sea, but the correlation of clutch size with egg production was not investigated (Halsband & Hirche 2001). Strictly speaking, sfEPR in our study cannot be interpreted as clutch size, because *Temora* is known to produce more than 1 clutch d⁻¹ (Ianora et al. 1989). However, this might particularly occur at conditions of food saturation and high temperature (see Ianora et al. 1989). The significant relationship of sfEPR with female length and food concentration in our study might therefore similarly reflect the effect on gonad development. The body length of *T. longicornis* was further negatively related to environmental temperature. This agrees with investigations in the North Sea and the laboratory (Evans 1981, Klein Breteler & Gonzalez 1988, Devreker et al. 2005), but, in contrast to these studies, we did not observe a positive scaling of length with food concentration. Thus, temperature was an important variable indirectly controlling the seasonal variation in egg production via its effect on body size.

%FS also determined egg production in this population of *Temora longicornis*. Food concentration was the only significant variable explaining the seasonal variation in %FS. This contrasts with a correlation of %FS with temperature for the period February to July in the English Channel (Devreker et al. 2005). The %FS of a copepod population likely depends on a combination of various intrinsic factors affecting the maturity of females, such as fertilisation, presence of premature females or senescence (e.g. Parrish & Wilson 1978, Ianora et al. 1989), and environmental variables that effect the rate of clutch production of mature females (Runge 1984, Hirche et al. 1997). Intrinsic factors are difficult to evaluate in field studies and were not specifically studied by us. However, they are unlikely to show a hyperbolic response with regard to food concentration as observed for *T. longicornis*. In addition, females were found to be continuously replenished from younger stages throughout most of the year (Dutz et al. 2010), while the ratio of females to males was largely constant and egg production increased in spring despite continuously low numbers of females and males. Thus, intrinsic variables are unlikely to primarily account for the observed variation in %FS.

The rate of clutch production per day (spawning frequency), however, depends both on temperature and food availability (Runge 1984, Hirche et al. 1997). Both variables control the metabolic activity and the rate at which nutritious compounds are transferred to gonads, and thus contribute to %FS. Regarding food, a hyperbolic response of %FS was previously observed in *Calanus* spp. (Uye & Murase 1997, Plourde & Joly 2008). However, the spawning frequency describes clutch production rates in spawning females only. With regard to the very low food concentrations (<20 µg C l⁻¹) in winter and in July 2002, the minimal %FS at these times could also reflect the proportion of females staying immature due to sub-optimal food conditions. Thus, the state of maturity and spawning frequency might both contribute to the variation in %FS, which needs further investigation.

Temperature is well known to positively affect egg production in copepods up to its optimum (Ianora 1998, Maps et al. 2005), presumably by its effects on spawning frequency, which was the main mechanism for the regulation of egg production in *Calanus* spp. (Runge 1984, Hirche et al. 1997). In contrast to food, we could not detect an influence of temperature on the proportion of spawning females (%FS). Egg production in *Temora longicornis* was already high at temperatures below 5°C, and a potential increase in
spawning frequency due to warming might have been offset by declining food levels. However, food explained only 59% of the variation in %FS. Thus, undetected temperature effects or intrinsic factors could account for the remaining variation.

PL, which was largely determined by temperature, and food concentration were the main variables controlling the daily egg production of Temora longicornis (Table 3). Both variables accounted for a similar proportion of its variance (61 and 53%) and together explained 80% of the variation in EPR of the population. Regarding food, egg production followed the seasonal abundance of dinoflagellates and ciliates. However, we interpret this as the general dependence of egg production on food concentration instead of the importance of specific protist groups, because the ephemeral diatom bloom in the Baltic occurring in March and April 2003 was simply missed in our investigation (see Dutz et al. 2010).

The control of egg production by a combination of body size and food concentration in the Baltic contrasts with previous investigations. The importance of food availability for egg production of Temora longicornis has been stressed in studies from the Kattegat and Long Island Sound (Peterson & Bellantoni 1987, Kiørboe & Nielsen 1994). Egg production showed a high correlation with food abundance and was apparently food limited after the spring phytoplankton bloom. Body length, however, was not determined in these studies. This contrasts with studies from the English Channel, the German Bight and the Irish Sea, in which seasonal variation in egg production of T. longicornis was mainly controlled by body weight and its relationship to environmental temperature (Halsband & Hirche 2001, Devreker et al. 2005, Castellani & Altunbaş 2006). The striking difference among studies is likely explained by differences in the hydrographical regimes of the investigated areas. The Bornholm Basin, Long Island Sound and Kattegat are characterised by large thermal amplitudes associated with seasonal stratification and, as a consequence, also larger variations in available food concentration and particle size (Peterson & Bellantoni 1987, Kiørboe & Nielsen 1994, this study). Female size typically displays less pronounced fluctuations with an increase in winter/spring and a gradual decrease during the seasonal warming. Since feeding is largely related to food availability rather than to body size under such conditions (Dam & Peterson 1991), food concentration controls egg production in combination with body size in the Baltic Sea. The studies at the coastal English Channel, the German Bight and the Irish Sea, in contrast, were conducted in shallow, well mixed areas, with high food levels frequently exceeding limitation during spring and summer (Halsband & Hirche 2001, Devreker et al. 2005, Castellani & Altunbaş 2006). Under such unlimited food conditions, egg production is expected to be more frequently controlled by size, which determines the maximal reproductive rate. A similar dependence of the controlling factors on the hydrographical regime has been observed for several other, but not all, copepod species (Durbin et al. 1983, 1992, Runge 1985, Peterson & Bellantoni 1987).

Temora longicornis recruitment

In comparison to the numerous investigations on egg production and the variables controlling its seasonal variation, only little is known about the importance of in situ egg production for nauplii recruitment. In pelagic copepods, peaks in egg production associated with phytoplankton blooms and low egg mortality are considered to be key factors controlling the seasonal recruitment and copepod population dynamics (Kiørboe & Nielsen 1994, Peterson & Kimmerer 1994). We compared nauplii recruitment using egg production, egg hatching and female abundance with nauplii abundances observed in the field (Fig. 8). The results need to be interpreted with care because nauplii were not separated by stage in field samples, and the constant mortality among all nauplii stages used to calculate N1 abundance does not necessarily concur with the dynamic nature of copepod populations in the field. However, the estimated egg mortality based on the calculated egg and N1 stocks ranges from 0.7 to 6.5 and compares well with published rates for the species (Peterson & Kimmerer 1994). Thus, calculated N1 stocks appear reasonable.

The comparison of egg and calculated N1 stocks suggests that peak egg production is not a prerequisite for cohort development. Although the EPR varied seasonally and decreased strongly following the vernal bloom, population egg production and recruitment of nauplii was continuously high until October, which compares well with the similarly constant abundance of nauplii over the productive season. This continuous high recruitment is achieved by the alternation of peak egg production of a low female stock during the spring bloom with the low egg production of abundant females in succeeding generations. Despite the continuously high population egg production and recruitment, the numbers of females declined strongly from August onwards. This
suggests that population dynamics of *Temora longicornis* in autumn are determined by intense mortality of offspring.

**CONCLUSIONS**

In conclusion, we have shown that the seasonal variation in egg production of *Temora longicornis* in the Baltic Sea can be understood by separately analysing the effects of environmental variables on the sfEPR and the %FS. PL was the main variable together with food concentration explaining the seasonal variation in sfEPR. In turn, PL was largely determined by the seasonal variation in temperature, and, on a more general scale, by salinity, which appeared to limit size due to energetic constraints. The %FS was mainly dependent on food concentration. However, food explained only about half of the seasonal variation in %FS. Various other undetected factors such as maturation state, female age or spawning frequency likely determine %FS and should be the subject of future studies in order to provide a mechanistic understanding of the environmental control of %FS.

While the small size of females emphasizes a considerable constraint by the brackish conditions in the Baltic Sea, no direct effects of salinity or temperature on reproduction were detected. This is likely related to the behavioural adaptation of *Temora longicornis* to avoid energetic constraints due to sub-optimal temperature conditions and a fluctuating salinity by staying in the cold intermediate water layer, which apparently constitutes a refuge and explains the species’ success in the Baltic Sea. Nevertheless, any direct effects of salinity or temperature may also be undetected in field studies because they co-vary with the relevant variables such as size or food availability.

The importance of female length and food availability as main factors controlling the seasonal variation in egg production contrast with suggestions for a stimulation of reproduction by climate-driven changes in surface water temperature as a mechanism behind the observed increase in *Temora longicornis* stocks in the Baltic Sea (Dippner et al. 2000, Möllmann & Köster 2002). Our results suggest instead that any stimulation of egg production by temperature will likely be compensated by its negative effects on female size. Moreover, rising spring temperatures likely affect the conditions of the intermediate water layer and increase the environmental stress for egg production of *T. longicornis*. How the observed recruitment pattern of *T. longicornis* in the Baltic Sea changes in response to the environmental pressure should therefore be the subject of future studies.

**Acknowledgements.** The study was funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research within the GLOBEC GERMANY project (03F0418C). We thank the crews and scientific parties of the RVs ‘Heincke’, ‘Alkor’ and ‘Alexander von Humboldt’ for excellent support during the study. We are grateful to M. Koski, E. Durbin and 3 anonymous reviewers for valuable comments on earlier versions of the manuscript.

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Editorial responsibility: Edward Durbin, Narragansett, Rhode Island, USA

Submitted: July 18, 2011; Accepted: May 22, 2012
Proofs received from author(s): August 2, 2012