

1 **A critical review of the use and performance of different function types for modeling**  
2 **temperature-dependent development of arthropod larvae**

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9 **Highlights:**

- 10 • Temperature-dependent development functions of arthropod larvae were reviewed  
11 • Data from published studies were re-tested and fit with eight different function types  
12 • 86.5 % of published studies did not fit their data with the best function of those tested  
13 • Performance differed among functions and was related to taxon and temperature range tested  
14 • Function type impacted predicted development times, so using the best function matters

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## ABSTRACT

Temperature-dependent development influences production rates of economically- and ecologically-important arthropod species, including crustaceans important to fisheries and agricultural pests. Numerous candidate equation types (development functions) exist to describe the effect of temperature on development time, yet most studies use only a single type of equation and there is no consensus as to which, if any model predicts development rates better than the others, nor what the consequences of selecting a potentially incorrect model equation are on predicted development times. In this study, a literature search was performed of studies fitting development functions to development of arthropod larvae (87 species). The published data of some (52) of these species were then fit with eight commonly-used development functions. Overall performance of each function type and consequences of using a function other than the best one to model data were assessed. Performance was also related to taxonomy and the range of temperatures examined. The majority (86.5 %) of studies were found to not use the best function out of those tested. Using the incorrect model lead to significantly less accurate (e.g., mean difference  $\pm$  SE  $7.9 \pm 1.7$  %, range: 1-18 %) predictions of development times than the best function. Overall, Heip Power, Quadratic, Bělehrádek, and Modified Arrhenius functions performed well, Linear Rate and Tauti Exponential were intermediate, and the Linear Sum and Brière-2 functions performed poorly. More complex functions only performed well when wide temperature ranges were tested, which tended to be confined to studies of insects or arachnids compared with those of crustaceans. Results indicate the biological significance of choosing the best-fitting model to describe temperature-dependent development time data.

**Key Words:** Temperature; arthropod; larval development; development functions; molting rate

## 47 **1. Introduction:**

48           Temperature affects biota at all levels, ranging from effects at the fundamental  
49 biochemical and physiological levels (Bělehrádek, 1935; Coutant and Talmage 1976; Somero,  
50 2004) to effects on individual organisms (Brière et al., 1999; MacKenzie, 1988), populations  
51 (Aiken and Waddy, 1986; Cooper et al., 2012; McLaren et al., 1969), communities, and  
52 ecosystems (Menge, 1978; McQuaid and Branch, 1985). Through its effects on the physical and  
53 chemical properties of biologically active molecules, such as enzymes, temperature affects the  
54 rate at which numerous life processes occur, including metabolism, oxygen consumption,  
55 photosynthesis, movement, survival, growth, and embryonic development (Bělehrádek, 1935;  
56 Brière et al. 1999; Corkett, 1972; Coutant and Talmage 1976; Du et al., 2007; Geffen and Nash,  
57 2012; Herzig, 1983; McLaren et al., 1969). Temperature also significantly affects larval  
58 development rate of poikilothermic animals, including some vertebrate larvae (Lind and  
59 Johansson, 2007; Kang et al., 2009; Miller et al., 2006) and those of invertebrates (e.g., de  
60 Severyn et al., 2000; Jenkins et al. 2006; Singh and Sharma, 1994). Temperature has particularly  
61 strong impacts on moulting and development of arthropods (Anger, 1984; Corkett and McLaren,  
62 1970; Easterbrook et al., 2003; Hamasaki et al., 2009; Koda and Nakamura, 2010; MacKenzie,  
63 1988; Marchioro and Forester, 2011; McLaren, 1963).

64           Within certain tolerance limits (Bělehrádek, 1935; Brière et al., 1999; Campbell et al.,  
65 1974; Shi and Ge, 2010) rates of biological processes of poikilotherms, including larval  
66 development, are positively correlated with temperature; thus, higher temperatures generally  
67 result in more rapid development than lower temperatures. This has important ecological  
68 implications, as environmental temperatures can influence generation times, production cycles,  
69 and population dynamics of such organisms. Higher or lower temperatures could, for example,

70 lead to changes in the amount and/or timing of peak secondary marine production of copepods  
71 (Huntley and López, 1992; McLaren, 1963), outbreaks of agricultural pests (Easterbrook et al.,  
72 2003) or vector-borne diseases (Bayoh and Lindsay, 2003), or introduction and establishment of  
73 invasive species into new areas (de Rivera et al., 2007). Water temperatures could also influence  
74 patterns of recruitment to populations of marine invertebrates, including crustaceans such as  
75 lobsters and crabs, on which human fisheries depend (Aiken and Waddy, 1986; Anger, 1984;  
76 Caddy, 1986; MacKenzie, 1988; Rothlisberg, 1979).

77         When modeling ecology and population dynamics of arthropods, equations are used to  
78 represent the functional relationship between environmental temperature and development rate or  
79 time of larvae. These equations, hereafter referred to as development functions, are derived by  
80 rearing larvae at different controlled temperatures in a lab or hatchery setting, observing  
81 development times of multiple larvae at each temperature, and then using regression analyses to  
82 fit an equation relating temperature to development time (or its inverse, rate) to the data  
83 obtained. There are countless potential forms of equation that can be used to fit such data,  
84 including various linear, simple curvilinear, and complex non-linear functions (e.g., see reviews  
85 by Anger, 2001; Angilleta Jr., 2006; Blanco et al. 1995; Guerrero et al., 1994; Heip, 1974;  
86 McLaren, 1995; Shi and Ge, 2010; Smits et al. 2003). These functions differ in form,  
87 assumptions, procedures used to derive their parameters, and most importantly in terms of the  
88 development times predicted. For example, development times of American lobster, *Homarus*  
89 *americanus* (H. Milne Edwards, 1837), larvae predicted with these eight different development  
90 function types can differ from each other and the data used to derive them by  $\geq 40$  days at the  
91 same temperatures (see Fig. 1; Table S1). However, this is no clear standard rule or consensus as  
92 to what is the “best” type of development function to apply to these kinds of data. Researchers

93 are generally left to choose the type of development function to use on their own, and will often  
94 select one or a very few forms that have the best apparent match to their characters of their data  
95 or has been used by other studies on the same or related species (e.g., Edgar and Andrew, 1990;  
96 McLaren et al., 1969). Given the potential for different functions to make very different  
97 predictions of development times (e.g., Fig. 1), however, development function choice should be  
98 given more consideration in studies on these species.

99         It is possible that certain function types may in general be better representations of the  
100 relationship between temperature and development of arthropod larvae, or specific sub-groups  
101 within the Arthropoda (e.g., arachnids vs. crustaceans vs. insects), for example because they  
102 come closer to capturing thermal performance relations of enzymes and other biomolecules  
103 mediating moulting and development cycles in these taxa (Brière et al., 1999; Huey and  
104 Stevenson, 1979; Somero, 2004). As a result, such functions might also achieve better fit to  
105 development data, be able to more-closely match real observed development times, and make  
106 better predictions of development in nature. Differences in methodologies used in studies on  
107 different taxa, for example the fact that the range of temperatures tested is generally wider for  
108 insects and arachnids than crustaceans; (reviewed by Hartnoll, 1982; Quinn and Rochette, 2015),  
109 might also lead to apparent taxonomic differences in function performance and should be  
110 investigated. Several previous studies have compared the characteristics of different  
111 development function types in general (Anger, 2001; Blanco et al., 1995; Guerrero et al., 1994;  
112 McLaren, 1995), while others have attempted to fit multiple function types to data for one or two  
113 specific species under study in order to select the best function for their data (e.g., Angilletta Jr.,  
114 2006; Heip, 1974; Shi and Ge, 2010; Smits et al., 2003). Many other studies seem to choose one  
115 or very few function(s) semi-arbitrarily, without discussing alternatives (e.g., de Oliveria et al.,

116 2009; Thompson 1982; see also Results). However, no previous study has attempted to assess the  
117 degree to which one versus multiple types of development functions are used in published  
118 studies, compared performance of different types of development functions across multiple  
119 species, or assessed the overall impact of function choice to predictions made with such  
120 functions. Such a large-scale analysis is needed, though, because it could potentially allow  
121 functions that tend to better represent development data in general to be identified, which can  
122 then allow for more informed decisions by future studies on arthropod larval development.

123         In this study, a critical literature review was conducted to assess whether and to what  
124 extent studies of temperature-dependent development of arthropod larvae attempt to represent  
125 their data with more than one development function type, and also which specific types of  
126 functions tend to be used. Then, data from previously published studies were extracted and  
127 retested to derive multiple different development functions for the same datasets. The best model  
128 type for each dataset was determined, and whether or not published studies actually used the best  
129 function type for their data was recorded. Overall performance of different function types were  
130 assessed by comparing overall function rankings, proportion of variance explained, and  
131 information loss across datasets. Any taxonomic patterns (e.g., whether particular function types  
132 performed better for arachnids than for crustaceans and/or insects) and whether performance was  
133 related to the range of temperatures tested were also noted. The consequences of using different  
134 function types were then tested by comparing the difference of predicted versus observed  
135 development times, fit, and information loss of the function type used in original studies versus  
136 that of the best function for the data.

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138 **2. Materials and methods:**

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140 2.1. Literature review:

141 A literature search was conducted through Web of Science (Thompson Reuters, 2015) for  
142 the terms “temperature” AND “development”. An initial search was carried out on 12 September  
143 2012, through which the majority of the data in the present study were obtained; this search  
144 yielded 1,052 results. A second search was carried out on 19 November 2014, which returned 35  
145 additional results not available or published online at the time of the initial search. These 1,087  
146 total search results were then further examined, and several criteria were used to remove non-  
147 relevant results. Accessible peer-reviewed studies that reported larval development rates or times  
148 of arthropods at different temperatures and derived a regression equation(s) (i.e., development  
149 function) from their data were sought out. Studies that looked exclusively at growth (size  
150 increase), which is a distinct process from development (Forster et al., 2011), were excluded.

151 After applying these criteria, 73 studies of 87 different arthropod species were obtained  
152 for subsequent examination and analyses (Table S2). Several specific types of development  
153 function were frequently utilized in these studies (Table S2); a sub-sample of these functions are  
154 presented in Table 1 and discussed in the next section (2.2.1, below). Studies were published  
155 between 1970 and 2014, and conducted in several different countries on marine, freshwater, and  
156 terrestrial species (Table S2) of various taxa within the Arachnida (Phylum Arthropoda:  
157 Subphylum Chelicerata), Crustacea, and Insecta (Table S2). To assess whether published studies  
158 tested multiple development functions on their data, each study was carefully read and the  
159 number and types of development functions used to fit the data for each study species were  
160 noted. Even if results from multiple functions were not reported, if alternative functions than  
161 reported were at least mentioned in the Methods sections of studies they were counted as having

162 considered > 1 function. Also if any study tested multiple development functions on their data  
163 and concluded one of these to be the “best” function for their data this was also noted. The  
164 percent (%) of the 87 species datasets from the literature search on which one, two, or more  
165 functions were tested, and the % of datasets on which different types of functions were tested,  
166 were then calculated.

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## 168 2.2. Meta-analysis:

### 169 *2.2.1. Development functions considered in this study:*

170 In the present study, eight development function types were examined (Table 1; Figure  
171 1). These included two functions derived by simple linear fitting to development data (the Linear  
172 Rate and Linear Sum functions), three simplistic curvilinear (non-linear) functions (Heip Power,  
173 Tauti Exponential, and Quadratic functions), two more-complex curvilinear functions including a  
174 nonzero minimum temperature ( $T_{\min}$ ) for development (Bělehrádek and Modified Arrhenius  
175 functions) and one very complex, asymmetrical non-linear function including both a minimum  
176 ( $T_{\min}$ ) and maximum ( $T_{\max}$ ) temperature for development (Brière-2) (Table 1). These functions  
177 were found in the literature review in the present study (see section 2.1 and Results) to be used  
178 quite frequently in studies of arthropod larvae. Additional development functions also exist,  
179 including several functions resembling the Brière-2 one (i.e., including  $T_{\min}$  and  $T_{\max}$  parameters)  
180 but with very complex structures requiring specialized fitting procedures not readily applicable  
181 in many statistical software packages (e.g., Huey and Stevenson, 1979; Ikemoto and Takai, 2000;  
182 Lactin et al., 1995; Logan, 1988; Schoolfield et al., 1981; Wang et al., 1982; see review by Shi  
183 and Ge, 2010); as such, these additional functions were not considered further in this study.

184           The Linear Rate function is fit to development rate ( $d$ ) data and becomes a hyperbola  
185 after transformation back to development time ( $D$ ) ( $d = 1/D$ ; Campbell et al., 1974; Table 1). The  
186 Linear Sum function is a true linear model that is simply fit to  $D$  (Winberg, 1971; Table 1). Both  
187 of these linear functions can be used to derive starting estimates for the values of  $T_{\min}$  and  $T_{\max}$   
188 (Campbell et al., 1974; Table 1) to be used in deriving Bělehrádek, Modified Arrhenius, and  
189 Brière-2 functions (see below). The Heip function is a simple Power fit of  $D$  versus temperature  
190 with an implicit minimum threshold for development of  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$  (Heip, 1974). The Tauti function is  
191 likewise a simple exponential curve fit to time data, which is equivalent to the Exponential  
192 function often fit to rates (Guerrero et al., 1994; Tauti, 1925). The Quadratic function is a  
193 second-order symmetrical polynomial function with positive curvature, in which above a  
194 particular temperature  $D$  begins to increase with temperature beyond a minimum value (e.g., de  
195 Oliveira et al., 2009; Quinn and Rochette, 2015). The Bělehrádek (Bělehrádek, 1936; McLaren,  
196 1963) and Modified Arrhenius (Guerrero et al., 1994) functions are based on power and modified  
197 exponential curves, respectively, but with an added parameter (a nonzero minimum temperature,  
198  $T_{\min}$ ) included at which development rate approaches zero (Modified Arrhenius) while time  
199 approaches infinity (Bělehrádek) at a vertical asymptote; if biologically-realistic values of  $T_{\min}$   
200 cannot be obtained, then this parameter can be set to  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ , making these functions equivalent in  
201 this case to the Heip Power and regular Arrhenius functions (Guerrero et al., 1994). It should be  
202 noted that both the regular and Modified Arrhenius functions relate development rate to the  
203 inverse of temperature, rather than directly to temperature itself (see Table 1), and are thus  
204 distinct from typical exponential curves. Lastly, the Brière-2 function is normally fit to rate and  
205 has two vertical asymptotes at  $T_{\min}$  and  $T_{\max}$ , at which development time approaches infinity  
206 (rate approaches 0) (Brière et al., 1999). The Brière-2 development curve is left-skewed, with

207  $T_{\max}$  occurring at temperatures very close to that at which minimum development times occur  
208 (Brière et al., 1999). There is also a Brière-1 function, in which the value of the b-parameter (see  
209 Table 1) is constrained to a value of 2 (Brière et al., 1999), but because during preliminary  
210 analyses far-better fits were obtained when allowing this parameter to vary than when  
211 constraining it (results not shown), the more-limited Brière-1 version of this function was not  
212 considered further in the present study.

213

#### 214 *2.2.2. Re-analysis of species datasets from published studies:*

215 To assess whether the function(s) used in published studies were actually the “best”  
216 functions for these published datasets, data were extracted for re-analysis from as many of the  
217 studies obtained through the literature search described above as possible. Studies or datasets  
218 from the literature search that did not examine at least one of the eight development function  
219 types described in the Introduction (Table 1; Figure 1) and previous section (2.2.1) or did not  
220 present their data in a way that allowed it to be extracted for retesting (e.g., only mean  
221 development times resented, without any measure of error), had to be excluded. Therefore, only  
222 52 species datasets out of the 87 studies from the literature search could be retested (Table S2);  
223 these included 7 arachnids (all mites, in the Subclass Acari), 20 Crustaceans (9 copepods and 11  
224 decapods), and 25 insects in 6 orders (5 Coleoptera, 3 Diptera, 5 Hemiptera, 4 Hymenoptera, 6  
225 Lepidoptera, and 2 Thysanoptera) (Table S2). Raw data or means  $\pm$  error (standard deviation  
226 (SD), standard error (SEM), etc.) and sample sizes were extracted from tables or figures in  
227 published papers for each of these 52 species and used to generate datasets for reanalysis.

228 Each study dataset was analyzed with linear and nonlinear regressions (Table 1) between  
229 temperature and development time or rate, as appropriate. These regression were carried out

230 using IBM SPSS Statistics 22 (SPSS Inc., 2014). To simplify analyses, only total development  
231 times or rates (i.e., summed across multiple larval stages) were examined and data for individual  
232 stages were not. For development functions including thermal limits ( $T_{\min}$  or  $T_{\max}$ ; see Table 1  
233 and section 2.2.1), unconstrained regressions were initially carried out, with starting values for  
234 these parameters set to values estimated from linear functions (see Table 1 and section 2.2.1,  
235 above). However, results were not accepted if this yielded biologically unrealistic estimates, such  
236 as  $T_{\min} < 0^{\circ}\text{C}$  in a species not known to survive and develop at sub-zero temperatures,  
237 unreasonably low  $T_{\min}$  (e.g.,  $-100^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) or high  $T_{\max}$  (e.g.,  $100^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), or  $T_{\min}$  or  $T_{\max}$  within the  
238 temperature range for which successful development was reported in the original study. In this  
239 case, constrained regressions were carried out (e.g.,  $T_{\min} \geq 0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $T_{\min} < \text{minimum T with}$   
240  $\text{successful development}$ ,  $T_{\max} > \text{maximum T with successful development}$ , etc.) until satisfactory  
241 values were obtained.

242         Once a regression equation corresponding to each development function was obtained for  
243 each dataset,  $\text{AIC}_C$  values (Akaike's Information Criterion (AIC) corrected for finite sample size;  
244 Akaike, 1973; Anderson, 2008) were calculated using the residual sum of squares (RSS) between  
245 observed development times and those predicted by each function for each study (Anderson,  
246 2008). Development functions were then ranked for each species dataset based on  $\text{AIC}_C$ -values.  
247 The "best" possible rank was 1, corresponding to the lowest  $\text{AIC}_C$  value, and the "worst"  
248 possible rank – if there were no ties – was 8, which corresponded to the highest  $\text{AIC}_C$  value  
249 among the functions tested. For each species dataset, whether or not the function used in its  
250 original published study was the same as that determined to be the "best" function for the data in  
251 this study was noted. RSS values were also used to calculate  $R^2$ -values for each function, on each  
252 dataset. These values were used as a measure of function performance (see next section, 2.2.3),

253 indicating the proportion of the variation in observed development times that was explained by  
254 each temperature-dependent development function.

255

### 256 *2.2.3. Assessing and comparing the overall performance of different functions:*

257 To determine whether any particular type(s) of function tended to do “better” than others,  
258 the overall performance of each development function across species datasets was assessed using  
259 three measures: average ranking (determined using  $AIC_C$ ),  $R^2$ , and  $\Delta_i$  values. These measures of  
260 performance were also compared across different taxonomic groups (arachnids, crustaceans, and  
261 insects) as it was possible that certain functions might better represent development of animals in  
262 a certain group(s) better than animals in others; this could be due to real biological differences  
263 among taxa or to different experimental methodologies used for their rearing.

264 Calculation of function rankings and  $R^2$ -values for each function on each dataset was  
265 described above (previous section).  $\Delta_i$  values were calculated once the best function for a given  
266 dataset was determined to assess the information potentially lost by using a function other than  
267 the best one (Anderson, 2008); a lower  $\Delta_i$  value is better, and indicates less information loss. The  
268  $\Delta_i$  value for a given function, “i”, is calculated by subtracting the  $AIC_C$  value of the best function  
269 of those tested from its  $AIC_C$  value (Anderson 2008); therefore, the best function will have  $\Delta_i =$   
270 0. A function with a lower  $\Delta_i$ , higher  $R^2$ , or lower (better) ranking value on average than other  
271 functions was considered to have performed better overall than other functions.

272 Separate two-way ANOVAs were carried out in IBM SPSS Statistics 22 (SPSS Inc.,  
273 2014) to compare each of these three measures of performance (rankings,  $R^2$ , and  $\Delta_i$ ) across  
274 different development functions (factor with 8 levels; Table 1), as well as among different  
275 taxonomic groups (factor with 3 levels: Arachnida, Crustacea, and Insecta). If a statistically-

276 significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) interaction between function and taxon was found, the data for that  
277 measure were split by taxon and then separate one-way ANOVAs comparing different functions  
278 were carried out for each taxon. If significant differences among functions were found, Tukey's  
279 Honestly Significant Difference (HSD) test was used to perform post-hoc comparisons among  
280 specific function types.

281

#### 282 *2.2.4. Assessing the consequences of development function choice:*

283         The consequences of choosing one function versus another to predict larval development  
284 at different temperatures were assessed by comparing whether and how much the best function  
285 identified in this study predicted observed development times relative to the function originally  
286 used in the study from which each species dataset was obtained (hereafter the "original"  
287 function). Three measures, described in detail below, were calculated for each of the 52 species  
288 datasets to assess consequences of function choice. These were mean "improvement",  $R^2$   
289 increase, and original study function  $\Delta_i$ .

290         To calculate the first of these, "improvement", the absolute deviance (in days) between  
291 predicted (using a development function) and mean observed development time was calculated  
292 for both the best and original study functions, at each temperature tested in original studies. The  
293 absolute deviance for the original function was then subtracted from that for the best function at  
294 each temperature, to determine how much predictions were improved (i.e., became closer to  
295 observed values) by using the best versus original function. These differences were then  
296 averaged across all temperatures to calculate a mean absolute "improvement" (in days) per each  
297 dataset that was due to using the best versus original functions. Mean improvement per dataset  
298 was also expressed as a percent improvement by performing the aforementioned calculations, but

299 before averaging differences between deviance of best and original functions across temperatures  
300 these differences were divided by the original function's deviance and multiplied by 100 %; this  
301 translated the improvement from a "raw" measure (in days) to a percentage (%).

302  $R^2$  increase was simply calculated for each dataset by subtracting the  $R^2$ -value of that  
303 dataset's original function from that of its best function. Percent  $R^2$  increase was also calculated  
304 for each dataset by dividing the  $R^2$  by the original function's  $R^2$ , and then multiplying by 100 %.  
305 A large  $R^2$  increase implied that a greater proportion of the variation in development time was  
306 explained by the best function than the original one.

307 The  $\Delta_i$  of the original function for each dataset was also examined to assess the extent of  
308 potential information lost by using these, rather than the best functions, to fit the data. As  
309 described above, a lower  $\Delta_i$  (closer to 0 =  $\Delta_i$  of best function) is better, and implies the function  
310 retains more useful information than a function with a higher  $\Delta_i$ . Generally a function with  $\Delta_i < 2$   
311 contains some useful information, even if it is not the "best" function, whereas a function with  $\Delta_i$   
312  $> 14$  is highly unlikely to be informative (Anderson 2008). A high original function  $\Delta_i$  value  
313 would imply that the original function was considerably less informative than the best function.

314 If the best function for a given dataset was the same as the original function, all of the  
315 measures described above would have a value of zero; if any measure were not significantly  
316 different from zero, then, it would imply that using the best versus original function did not result  
317 in meaningfully different predicted development times. Therefore, the distributions of mean  
318 "improvement" and  $R^2$  increase when best versus original functions were used to predict  
319 development times, as well as original function  $\Delta_i$  values, across all species datasets were  
320 compared to zero (null hypothesis of no differences) using analysis of confidence intervals  
321 (Cummings et al., 2007). Mean values  $\pm$  95 % confidence intervals (95 % C.I.) of each

322 measurement were calculated across all datasets. If the 95% C.I.s did not overlap with zero the  
323 null hypothesis could be rejected and a significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) impact of function choice  
324 concluded.

325

### 326 2.3. Potential relationship between thermal range and function performance:

327         One interesting pattern noted during the literature review in this study was that studies of  
328 temperature-dependent development differed considerably in their methodology, particularly  
329 regarding the range of temperatures tested. Thermal ranges varied considerably among studies in  
330 general, from as narrow as 6°C to as wide as 35°C (Table S2). Differences also appeared to exist  
331 between studies of different taxonomic groups, particularly between studies of crustaceans  
332 versus those of arachnids and insects (Hartnoll, 1982; Quinn and Rochette, 2015; Table S2). To  
333 confirm whether such taxonomic differences were significant, the thermal range for each species  
334 dataset subjected to detailed re-analysis ( $n = 52$  total) was calculated as the maximum  
335 temperature tested in its original study minus the minimum temperature tested; this included any  
336 temperatures at which successful development was not observed (i.e., survival = 0 %), as this  
337 implies a developmental threshold (like  $T_{\min}$  and  $T_{\max}$  in the Brière-2 function, for example).  
338 One-way ANOVA was then used to compare thermal ranges among taxonomic groups.

339         More complex functions have lower power to model smaller datasets (Shi and Ge, 2010).  
340 This is especially true for complex development functions containing threshold temperatures  
341 ( $T_{\min}$  and  $T_{\max}$ ) if these are fit to data recorded over narrow thermal ranges not approaching a  
342 species' real thermal limits (Shi and Ge, 2010). In such cases, thermal thresholds have to be  
343 extrapolated too far beyond actual observations, resulting in excessively extreme estimates for  
344 these parameters. One could thus expect that complex functions like Brière-2 may perform better

345 when wider thermal ranges are tested, potentially approaching or encompassing real thermal  
346 limits. To test whether or not more complex functions would be selected as better functions when  
347 wider thermal ranges were tested, Pearson's correlation coefficients (R) were calculated between  
348 the thermal ranges calculated for each dataset and the ranking of each function per dataset. Thus,  
349 eight separate correlation analyses were carried out (one for each type of development function),  
350 each consisting of 52 thermal range-ranking pairs (one pair per dataset). Whether correlations  
351 were significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ), and if significant R-coefficients were positive or negative was  
352 examined. As lower ranking values implied better function performance (see above), a positive  
353 correlation for a given function implied that the function did worse when a wider range of  
354 temperatures was tested, whereas a negative correlation meant that the function did better when a  
355 wider thermal range was tested.

356

### 357 **3. Results:**

358

#### 359 3.1. Results of literature review – usage of different functions:

360 Out of 87 different species datasets, over half (56.5 %, or 49 datasets) were reported to  
361 have been fit with only one development function and the majority (89.2 %, or 78 datasets) were  
362 fitted with four or fewer functions (Fig. 2A). In most cases studies that used 2-4 functions  
363 examined insects or arachnids (Fig. 2A) and used 1-3 complex functions (like the Brière-2  
364 function) plus the Linear Rate function to derive starting values for  $T_{\min}$  and  $T_{\max}$  parameters in  
365 these complex functions (Fig. 2B; Table S2). The only taxonomic group for which  $> 4$  different  
366 functions were tested was Insecta, for which 10.6 % of all species datasets (9 in total,  
367 representing 18.1 % of insects) were tested with 5-17 different development functions (Fig. 2A).

368           The most frequently-used development functions overall, and particularly among studies  
369 of the Insecta and Arachnida, were the Linear Rate (34.9 % of all datasets, 48.7 % of insect  
370 datasets, 29.5 % of arachnids) and Brière-2 functions (7.6 % of all datasets, 5.0 % of insects,  
371 35.3 % of Arachnida), in addition to various other complex functions (30.2 % of all datasets,  
372 37.5 % of Insecta, 35.3 % of arachnids) not examined in detail in this study (Fig. 2B; Table S2;  
373 see Methods, section 2.2.1.). No other function types were used for arachnids, and the only other  
374 functions used for insects were the Heip Power and Quadratic functions, and these were only  
375 used rarely (5.0 and 3.8 % of insect datasets, respectively; Fig. 2B). All eight development  
376 functions examined in this study – in addition to a few other types - were used in previous  
377 studies of Crustacea (Fig. 2B; Table S2), with the most common being the Heip Power and  
378 Bělehrádek functions in 6.8 and 8.3 % of all datasets, respectively (Fig. 2B), representing 25.7  
379 and 31.3 % of Crustacean datasets.

380

### 381 3.2. Results of meta-analysis – did previous studies use the “best” function for their data?

382           The development function(s) used to fit species datasets and/or concluded to have been  
383 the “best” function for these data in their original studies were found, in the vast majority of  
384 cases, not to be the best function for the data out of the eight functions examined (Fig. 3). When  
385 AIC<sub>C</sub> was used to rank functions, the best function for 86.5 % of 52 study datasets was  
386 concluded to be a different one than that selected in previous studies (Fig. 3). For all three  
387 taxonomic groups, a considerable majority of datasets (75.0 % for Crustacea, 92.1 % for Insecta,  
388 and 100 % for Arachnida) were found to be best fit using a different function than that used in  
389 original studies of these species (Fig. 3).

390

### 391 3.3. Overall performance of different functions:

392           There was a significant interaction ( $F_{14, 392} = 4.180$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) between the effects of  
393 taxonomic group and development function type on overall performance of the eight different  
394 development functions as assessed by ranking functions with  $AIC_C$ . Therefore differences in  
395 rankings among functions were compared for each taxonomic group separately. In all three  
396 taxonomic groups, ranking did significantly differ among different development functions  
397 (Arachnida:  $F_{7, 48} = 22.061$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ; Crustacea:  $F_{7, 48} = 11.103$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ; Insecta:  $F_{7, 48} =$   
398  $32.833$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ). Differences in rankings among functions were actually very similar across  
399 the different taxonomic groups (Fig. 4). There were some differences among taxa in terms of the  
400 placement of functions of more intermediate mean rankings; for instance, the Tauti Exponential  
401 function was ranked well among Crustacea (Fig. 4C) but not for the other taxa (for Arachnida it  
402 had one of the poorest ranks (Fig. 4A) and it was intermediate for Insecta (Fig. 4B)) and the  
403 Linear Rate and Brière-2 functions were ranked poorly for the Arachnida and Crustacea (Fig.  
404 4A, C) but intermediately for Insecta (Fig. 4B). However, the functions with the “best” (lowest  
405 values, closest to 1) and “worst” (highest values, furthest from 1) mean rankings were mostly  
406 consistent among groups. The best-ranked functions included the Heip Power, Quadratic, and  
407 Bělehrádek functions for all three taxonomic groups, as well as the Modified Arrhenius function  
408 in both Arachnida and Insecta (Fig. 4). The worst functions included the Linear Sum function in  
409 all three taxa and the Brière-2 function in both Arachnida and Crustacea (Fig. 4).

410

### 411 3.4. Consequences of function choice:

412            $R^2$ -values differed among the eight development functions ( $F_{7, 392} = 7.973$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ;  
413 Fig. 5A) but not among taxonomic groups ( $F_{2, 392} = 1.635$ ,  $p = 0.196$ ); there was no significant

414 interaction between function and taxonomy ( $F_{14, 392} = 1.138$ ,  $p = 0.323$ ). Mean  $R^2$ -values were  
415 fairly high for all development functions and ranged between 0.7 and 0.9 (Fig. 5A), meaning  
416 that, on average, all temperature-dependent development functions tested were able to explain  
417 the majority of variation in observed development times. Significant differences were found  
418 among functions, however. The Heip Power, Quadratic, Bělehrádek, and Modified Arrhenius  
419 functions had the highest overall  $R^2$ -values (approximately 0.9) and explained significantly more  
420 variation in development time than the Tauti Exponential and Linear Rate functions, which had  
421 intermediate  $R^2$ -values (approximately 0.8) (Fig. 5A). The Linear Sum and Brière-2 functions  
422 had the lowest  $R^2$ -values, of 0.7 on average and explained significantly less variation in  
423 development time than all other functions except the Linear Rate function (Tukey's HSD test,  $p$   
424  $< 0.001$ ; Fig. 5A). The explanatory power of development functions therefore differed by as  
425 much as 10-20% on average depending on which was used (Fig. 5A).

426  $\Delta_i$  values also differed among functions ( $F_{7, 392} = 6.178$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) but not among taxa ( $F_{2, 392} = 1.766$ ,  $p = 0.172$ ; non-significant interaction:  $F_{14, 392} = 0.812$ ,  $p = 0.656$ ; Fig. 5B). All  
427 mean  $\Delta_i$  values were high (mean  $\Delta_i \geq 44.5$ ) because each function was not selected as the best  
428 function by  $AIC_C$  at least once, and in many cases the difference between the  $AIC_C$  values of the  
429 best function and the 2<sup>nd</sup> best function ( $\Delta_i$ ) were quite large (as evidenced by the variance in Fig.  
430 5B). The lowest average  $\Delta_i$  values of 44.5 and 47.5 were calculated for the Bělehrádek and  
431 Modified Arrhenius functions, and the highest value (mean  $\Delta_i = 451.2$ ) for the Linear Sum  
432 function (Fig. 5B). There were therefore large differences in the amount of information attained  
433 depending on which function was used.

435 Mean improvement  $\pm$  95 % C.I. in how well predicted development times matched  
436 observed time when the best versus the originally-used function were utilized was  $1.9 \pm 0.4$  days,

437 and mean improvement per dataset ranged from  $< 1$  to  $> 5$  days (Fig. 6A). These improvements  
438 could be fairly large in terms of percent improvement over predictions using original function,  
439 which ranged from 1 to 18 % or greater, with an average value  $\pm 95$  % C.I. s of  $7.9 \pm 1.7$  % (Fig.  
440 6B). When the best function was found in this study to not be the same as the function used in  
441 the original studies from which datasets were obtained ( $n = 42/52$  datasets), the  $R^2$  increased by  
442 an average  $\pm 95$  % C.I.s of  $0.105 \pm 0.045$  (Fig. 6C), which is significantly greater than zero ( $p <$   
443  $0.05$ ) meaning that  $\sim 10$  % of the variation in the data was better explained using the best  
444 function. The difference in  $R^2$ -values between originally-used and best functions could be much  
445 greater in many cases, though, as percent increase in  $R^2$  by using the best function ranged from  
446 as low as 1% to as high as 80% for certain study datasets (Fig. 6C); mean percent increase in  $R^2$   
447  $\pm 95$  % C.I. was  $5.935 \pm 4.340$  % (Fig. 6C). Additionally the mean  $\Delta_i$  of the originally-used  
448 functions was  $261.9 \pm 99.0$  (Fig. 6D), indicating a substantial loss of information relative to the  
449 actual best function, at least as determined in the present study. All measures of improvement  
450 resulting from using the best rather than original functions on species datasets were significantly  
451 different from zero (analysis of confidence intervals,  $p \leq 0.05$ ; Fig. 6).

452

### 453 3.5. Range of temperature tested in studies versus function performance:

454 Thermal ranges tested in original studies differed significantly among studies of different  
455 taxonomic groups ( $F_{2, 49} = 12.607$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ; see also Table S2). Interestingly, studies of  
456 crustaceans tended to be carried out over significantly smaller thermal ranges (mean  $\pm 95\%$  C.I.  
457 =  $10.7 \pm 1.4$  °C) than those of arachnids ( $17.5 \pm 3.0$  °C' Tukey's HSD test,  $p = 0.003$ ) or insects  
458 ( $16.82 \pm 2.0$  °C; Tukey's HSD test,  $p < 0.001$  ) implying notable differences in the way thermal

459 effects are investigated in these taxa; thermal ranges studied for Insects and Arachnids did not  
460 differ, however (Tukey's HSD test,  $p = 0.937$ ).

461 The range of temperatures examined in previous studies was significantly correlated with  
462 performance (ranking) of several of the development functions tested in this study (Table 2).  
463 Rankings of the Linear Sum, Heip Power, and Tauti Exponential functions by  $AIC_C$  were  
464 weakly, but significantly and positively correlated with temperature range (Table 2), meaning  
465 that these functions tended to do more poorly (higher value = poorer rank, further from 1) when  
466 larger thermal ranges were tested. Conversely, rankings of the Modified Arrhenius, Bělehrádek,  
467 and Brière-2 functions ranked by  $AIC_C$  were negatively correlated with temperature range (Table  
468 2), meaning that these functions performed better (lower value = better rank, closer to 1) when  
469 studies tested a wider range of temperatures.

470

#### 471 **4. Discussion:**

472

##### 473 4.1. Use and performance of different development functions in previous studies:

474 Modeling functional relationships between temperature and life history characters is an  
475 essential component of studying the biology of poikilothermic organisms (Angilletta Jr., 2006;  
476 Bělehrádek, 1935; Shi and Ge, 2010). Predictions of generation times (Huntley and Lopez, 1992),  
477 timing of seasonal events (Bayoh and Lindsay, 2003), dispersal potential (de Rivera et al., 2007),  
478 and recruitment to adult populations of Arthropoda (Aiken and Waddy, 1986; Caddy, 1986)  
479 produced by such modeling efforts are thus sensitive to the types of temperature-dependent  
480 larval development functions incorporated in these. Development times of arthropod larvae  
481 predicted for the same species and temperatures by different function types can differ

482 substantially, which has important impacts on predictions made. Using the best possible function  
483 to represent a given species' and/or study's dataset should thus be a crucial component of the  
484 study of temperature-dependent arthropod larval development, which should precede reporting  
485 and use of the results of such studies in models. However, in the present study this important step  
486 was found to be largely bypassed by the majority of studies. Particular function types tended to  
487 be used more often than others for particular taxonomic groups with little or no clear justification  
488 for the choice made, while consideration of alternative function types was rarely reported in  
489 published papers. In most cases the function used in original published studies was not actually  
490 the best one for the datasets presented. Further, fitting these data with the best model resulted in  
491 better fit, less disagreement between predicted and observed development times, decreased  
492 information loss, and presumably also better predictive ability. These results demonstrate that  
493 development function choice is an important but often-ignored step in research on arthropod  
494 larval development, which should be given greater consideration in future studies.

495         Choosing one particular development function might have some justification if any  
496 function(s) could be said to be better overall than others. In the present study, no single function  
497 type was found to be the best or worst, but the Heip Power, Quadratic, Bělehrádek, and Modified  
498 Arrhenius functions tended to perform quite well overall, while the Linear Sum and Brière-2  
499 functions tended to perform quite poorly. Functions that performed well overall might be  
500 recommended as good starting points for fitting development data, and those that did poorly  
501 overall could conversely be used with caution. However, even these functions were not  
502 universally found to be the best or worst for all datasets. For example, the Linear Sum function  
503 was actually found to be the best for American lobster (*Homarus americanus* (H. Milne  
504 Edwards, 1837)) data from Quinn et al. (2013), while the Heip Power, Bělehrádek, and other

505 overall “good” functions performed more poorly on these data (Table S1). Also, the Brière-2  
506 function, which performed poorly overall, did somewhat better on insect data than for other taxa  
507 and actually was among the best models for some insect species datasets (Table S2). Therefore,  
508 it is difficult to make general statements about which function is always best to use; this must  
509 rather be assessed on a case-by-case basis, for each species and study. Results in this study  
510 showed that not using the best function for a given dataset can result in very different predicted  
511 development times, which could lead to very different (and potentially erroneous) inferences and  
512 predictions of species biology by modeling studies (Miller et al., 1998; Miller et al., 2006;  
513 Quinn, 2014; Reitzel et al., 2004). The practice among many fields of study has been to fit data  
514 with a development function type that has been used in previous studies on similar species; for  
515 example, the frequent use of the Bělehrádek function on copepod crustaceans (Anger, 2001;  
516 Corkett and McLaren, 1970; Hamasaki et al. 2009) or Linear Rate + complex function(s) on  
517 insects and arachnids (Golizadeh and Zalucki, 2012; Shi and Ge, 2010; Smits et al., 2003; Table  
518 S2). However, based on results of the present study this practice should be discontinued.

519

#### 520 4.2. Importance of temperature range tested to function performance:

521 An interesting finding in the present study was that overall performance of several  
522 function types was correlated with the range of temperatures tested in original published studies.  
523 Specifically, as the range of temperatures tested increased performance (i.e., likelihood to be  
524 ranked as the best model) of the simplest functions examined (Linear Sum, Heip Power, and  
525 Tauti Exponential) decreased while that of the most complex functions (Bělehrádek, Modified  
526 Arrhenius, and Brière-2) increased. This result does make sense, however, if one considers the  
527 “real” nature of temperature-biological rate relationships. Because the actual performance of the

528 enzymes mediating larval development most certainly have upper and lower functional threshold  
529 temperatures, beyond which development cannot progress (Brière et al., 1999; Quinn and  
530 Rochette, 2015; Somero, 2004), one can assume that for most species the “true” relationship  
531 between temperature and development time resembles the Brière-2 function, or similar complex  
532 asymmetrical curves (e.g., Huey and Stevenson, 1979; Shi and Ge, 2010). A study carried out  
533 over a very wide range of temperatures should be able to approach or exceed thermal thresholds  
534 and therefore identify these limiting temperatures, and thus be best explained by a complex,  
535 Brière-2-type function. However, if one carries out their study over a more narrow thermal  
536 range, they will only be able to “observe” a certain section of the development curve, which  
537 could be located relatively far from one or both threshold temperatures. This could result in the  
538 observed temperature-development data having a distinctly Linear, Quadratic, or Power  
539 function-like shape, such that one of these alternative, simpler functions would be identified as  
540 the “best” function for the data over this specific range. Indeed, this seems to have been the case  
541 in several of the datasets examined, in which thermal ranges and/or sample sizes were relatively  
542 small (e.g., Quinn et al., 2013; Corkett and McLaren, 1970; Hamasaki et al., 2009; Carlotti et al.,  
543 2007; Table S1, S2) and the best function was determined to be one of the simpler functions,  
544 such as the Linear Sum or Heip function, even though these should be the least-realistic  
545 (Bělehrádek, 1935; Brière et al., 1999; Somero, 2004). Importantly, when this occurs the best  
546 function will be the one that provides the most informative description of development times  
547 over a very specific range of temperatures, but its performance is likely to degrade if  
548 extrapolation beyond this range is attempted. Ultimately the “best” function should be of a  
549 complex form resembling a Brière-2-type function, but most studies, especially of Crustacea, are

550 not conducted over sufficiently wide temperature ranges to be allow good estimates of such  
551 functions' parameters to be derived.

552         The vast majority of insects and arachnids have terrestrial and/or freshwater aquatic  
553 habitats, in which temporal variability in air and water temperatures can be very large (Pakyari et  
554 al., 2011; Sanchez-Ramos et al., 2007; Stavrinos et al. 2010). As a result, the likelihood of  
555 these organisms and their larvae being exposed to extreme temperatures exceeding thresholds for  
556 moulting, development, and/or survival can be high. Conversely, many crustaceans (and all of  
557 those examined in the present review; Table S2) inhabit the marine realm as larvae and/or adults  
558 (Paul and Paul, 1999; Roberts et al., 2012; Thompson, 1982). While it is not impossible that  
559 marine crustacean larvae could encounter temperatures too high for development or survival  
560 (e.g., such warm extremes could occur in shallow coastal areas, highly-stratified water columns,  
561 intertidal zones at low tide, or more generally due to future climate change; Caffara et al., 2012;  
562 Quinn and Rochette, 2015), they are thought to be far more likely to encounter lower limiting  
563 temperatures, especially in the deeper ocean or temperate regions (Hartnoll, 1982; MacKenzie,  
564 1988). This perceived difference in limiting temperatures appears to have lead studies on  
565 temperature-dependent development in these groups along different paths. Studies of insects and  
566 arachnids often use very wide temperature ranges with the intent of capturing lower and upper  
567 limiting temperatures for development in their species because these physiological limits are  
568 known to be essential to modeling these species in their natural environments (Shi and Ge, 2010;  
569 Smits et al., 2003). Studies of crustaceans, to the contrary, tend to be limited to more narrow  
570 thermal ranges deemed “ecologically-relevant” (i.e., likely to be encountered by the species in  
571 nature); occasionally these include lower limits, but in general physiological limits, especially  
572 upper ones, are rarely sought (Hartnoll, 1982).

573           While there is certainly logic behind the use of narrower, more-relevant thermal ranges in  
574 studies of Crustacea, this approach still has potential to result in errors for two main, related  
575 reasons. First, the type of development function used changes predicted development times both  
576 at and between (interpolation) observed temperatures and especially outside of these  
577 (extrapolation) (Angilletta Jr., 2006; Campbell et al., 1974; Quinn and Rochette, 2015). Second,  
578 thermal development limits actually change the shape of the “real” and estimated (i.e., fitted by  
579 regression) development curve, for example by decreasing its curvature when lower and upper  
580 limits are further apart and increasing curvature when these are closer together (Bělehrádek,  
581 1935; Brière et al., 1999; Shi and Ge, 2010; personal observations by author). All else being  
582 equal, these difference in curvature can result in very different development times at the same  
583 temperatures. As a result, it is important to know the physiological limits of a given species when  
584 modeling its development. Even if a species rarely encounters temperatures close to these limits,  
585 development times calculated at intermediate temperatures will be impacted by the values of  
586 these limits; if one ignores these limits and uses a different function type, or attempts to estimate  
587 limits by extrapolation from a narrow thermal range, there is great potential for erroneous  
588 predictions of development times to be made.

589

#### 590 4.3. Discussion of potential limitations and next steps:

591           In the present review, published studies on arthropod larvae were obtained through  
592 literature searches through Web of Science (Thompson Reuters, 2015). These searches were by  
593 no means comprehensive – many other studies of temperature-dependent development of  
594 arthropod larvae exist that were not indexed in this search engine – but it was extensive and did  
595 provide a good sample of such studies encompassing many different years, regions, and

596 arthropod taxa (Table S2). This sample of the relevant literature was thus appropriate and useful  
597 for the purposes of the present review of development function usage and performance. An  
598 expanded search using additional search tools in a future study could obtained data for other  
599 taxonomic groups within the Arthropoda (e.g, myriapods, more non-Acari arachnids (spiders),  
600 other orders of Crustacea and Insecta, etc.), or even outside of this phylum (e.g., molluscs: de  
601 Severyn et al., 2000; nematodes: Jenkins et al., 2006; Singh and Sharma, 1994; urochorates:  
602 Kang et al., 2009; vertebrates: McLaren and Cooley, 1972; Miller et al. 2006), which may reveal  
603 additional patterns in study design, taxonomy, and function usage of interest. However, overall  
604 patterns and conclusions of the present study would likely hold true. To simplify analyses, this  
605 study conducted analyses on total larval development time data rather than on individual larval  
606 stages. However, in most species development time of each larval stages has a distinct response  
607 to temperature, requiring different developmental equations to be derived for each stage (Corkett  
608 and McLaren, 1970; Hartnoll, 1982). Often survival to and through later larval stages is very  
609 low, so power to fit more complex functions to later-stage development data can be limited. As a  
610 result, the best function can potentially differ among larval stages of the same species, in the  
611 same study; indeed, this was noted for American lobster data in the present study (Table S1). A  
612 future study should investigate stage-specific changes in the “best” development function(s), to  
613 confirm whether such patterns could impact the overall performance of different function types,  
614 prediction error, and so on. However, it would make mathematical sense for similar patterns to  
615 be found through such a detailed review to those noted in the present study, given that similar  
616 factors (e.g., sample sizes and thermal ranges tested) would impact function performance.

617         As noted in the Introduction and Methods (2.2.1), numerous development function types  
618 exist in addition to the eight examined in detail in this study. Many of these are extremely

619 complex (e.g., Angilletta Jr., 2006; Huey and Stevenson, 1979; Logan, 1988; Schoolfield et al.,  
620 1981; Shi and Ge, 2010) and used very frequently in studies of arthropod (mainly non-Crustacea)  
621 larvae (Golizadeh and Zalucki, 2012; Huang et al., 2008; Mobarakian et al., 2014; Table S2). It  
622 is possible that one or more of the functions not examined herein could actually be the closest to  
623 “real” development relationships and/or perform better overall than all others. For example, Shi  
624 and Ge (2010) concluded that the Performance function (Huey and Stevenson, 1979) was best  
625 out of the 12 functions they tested on development data for diamondback moth, *Plutella*  
626 *xylostella* (L.). This and other additional functions should thus be investigated in a future,  
627 expanded review. However, findings of this review that one or few functions are used by most  
628 studies, the best function was not the one used in most original published studies, and that using  
629 the non-best function results in poorer predictions would not change through consideration of  
630 such additional functions. In fact, more complex functions are unlikely to achieve much higher  
631 performance on many of the datasets obtained in the present study, particularly those for  
632 Crustacea reared over narrow, non-extreme thermal ranges; if anything, functions with greater  
633 complexity than the Brière-2 one are most likely to do worse on many of these datasets due  
634 smaller sample sizes (Shi and Ge, 2010).

635         In this study function performance was assessed mainly in terms of fit ( $R^2$  and observed  
636 versus predicted values) and information loss ( $AIC_C$  and  $\Delta_i$ ). These gave good indications of how  
637 appropriate each function and its parameter estimates were for particular datasets (e.g., how well  
638 sample sizes supported estimation of more complex functions). However, future studies could  
639 take more thorough approaches to assessing predictive ability of different functions. One  
640 approach to be used in the future to assess function performance could be cross-validation  
641 (Picard and Cook, 1984; Anderson, 2008). Even better would be actually testing development

642 functions on new data, for example by predicting development times for a particular species at  
643 different temperatures using different functions derived in a prior study, and then measuring new  
644 development times and comparing these to predictions. If future studies attempted this, very  
645 thorough tests and new evidence in favour of one function or another might be obtained.

646

#### 647 4.4. Implications of development time predictions based on different functions:

648 Differences in development times predicted for the same species and temperature among  
649 development functions have potential to impact various types of predictions relevant to arthropod  
650 biology and ecology. Larval survival is usually inversely related to larval duration, such that  
651 slower development results in fewer potential recruits to adult populations (Reitzel et al., 2004;  
652 Roberts et al., 2012). Most life history and bio-physical models account for this by reducing  
653 larval numbers in simulated cohorts by a certain percentage at each model time step, resulting in  
654 substantial, exponential losses per each additional step spend in larval development (e.g., Miller  
655 et al., 1998; Quinn, 2014). In many crustaceans, the larval phase of the life cycle is the main  
656 dispersive phase (Anger, 1984; de Rivera et al., 2007; MacKenzie, 1988). Lengthening the larval  
657 developmental period of such larvae can dramatically alter how far and to where larvae drift in  
658 simulations with ocean currents; for example, simulations by Quinn (2014) showed that slowing  
659 larval development (and thus lengthening drift time) of American lobster larvae by 60 % could  
660 result in increased drift distances of larvae by up to ca. 500 km. If drift were overestimated in  
661 such models, for instance due to use of inappropriate development functions, then the degree of  
662 population mixing would be overestimated and an incorrect estimate of population structure  
663 obtained; underestimation by the same means could also lead to considerable errors. Likewise if  
664 dispersal ability of larvae of an invasive species, such as the green crab *Carcinus maenas* (L.) (de

665 Rivera et al., 2007), were underestimated in this way potential invasions to new regions that  
666 could be predicted may be missed. Using development functions to estimate the timing of  
667 seasonal peaks in abundance of disease vectors (Bayoh and Lindsay, 2003), agricultural pests  
668 (Campbell et al., 1994; Easterbrook et al., 2003; Stavriniades et al., 2010), or species that serve as  
669 important food sources to others (e.g., copepod secondary productivity in the ocean: Carlotti et  
670 al., 2007) also depends on being able to make good estimates of larval development. For many  
671 species very small differences in development time similar to the difference in “errors” of best  
672 and original studies’ functions are enough to dramatically alter the nature and implications of  
673 modeled predictions (e.g.,  $\leq 1$ -5 days; Gadino and Walton, 2012). The type of development  
674 function used can thus have large impacts on predictions, so it is important that studies attempt to  
675 find the best model for their data. Importantly, much research is now being initiated to assess  
676 how future climate change will impact many species, including arthropods and their larvae  
677 (Caffara et al., 2012; Quinn and Rochette, 2015). Use of non-best development functions within  
678 such research clearly could result in erroneous predictions as well and so should be avoided.

679

#### 680 4.5. Recommendations and conclusions:

681 Based on results of this study, it is recommended that future studies examining effects of  
682 temperature on development of arthropod larvae consider and attempt to fit multiple alternative  
683 development function types to their data to determine the best way to model their results and  
684 report that this was attempted. No one function type is better or worse overall, but the range of  
685 temperatures to be considered and potential use of results (e.g., for extrapolation to temperatures  
686 not observed) can be used as a guide when deciding which functions are most likely to provide  
687 good representations of data. In general simpler functions (Heip Power, Tauti Exponential) could

688 provide better descriptions of development observed over relatively narrow thermal ranges (but  
689 provide poor extrapolation ability). Conversely, wider ranges encompassing lower (Bělehrádek,  
690 Modified Arrhenius) and/or upper (Brière-2 and similar functions) limiting temperatures for  
691 development can support more complex functions, which potentially resemble more closely true  
692 enzymatic and biological thermal performance curves (Brière et al., 1999; Somero, 2004) and  
693 may allow modeling over all temperatures potentially encountered. Studies on crustaceans in  
694 particular should be conducted over wider thermal ranges in the future so that limiting  
695 temperatures of these species can be identified and more complex, presumably realistic  
696 development functions reliably fit to data for these organisms. Considering different potential  
697 function types to find the best for each dataset should lead to better predictions of larval  
698 development times in support of subsequent research on these important species.

699

#### 700 **Acknowledgements:**

701

702 Thanks are due to Rémy Rochette, Joël Chassé, Jeff Houlihan, and Heather Hunt for advice and  
703 guidance during this project, and the University of New Brunswick, Saint John Campus, for  
704 providing resources that made the review and analyses possible.

705

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1034

1035 **Electronic Supplementary Material:**

1036

1037 **Table S1.** Development function parameter estimates,  $R^2$ , and  $AIC_C$  for American lobster data  
1038 plotted in Figure 1.

1039

1040 **Table S2.** List of studies and species obtained for the literature review and meta-analyses,  
1041 including taxonomic grouping, function type(s) used, best function, whether the best and used  
1042 function were the same, and temperature range tested.

1043 **Tables and Figures:**

1044 **Table 1.** Names and forms of the 8 different development functions examined in this study.  
 1045 Functions ranged in complexity from linear [2] to simple curvilinear [1, 3, 4, 5], to complex  
 1046 curvilinear (including a “biological minimum temperature” parameter,  $T_{\min}$ ) [6, 7], to complex  
 1047 asymmetrical (including both  $T_{\min}$  and a “biological maximum temperature”,  $T_{\max}$ ) [8]. If a  $T_{\min}$   
 1048 (“biological minimum temperature”) or  $T_{\max}$  (“biological maximum temperature”) value is  
 1049 implied within or estimable from a given function, this is indicated in the “Notes” column. In all  
 1050 equations D is development time (in days), T is temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), A, B, C, a, and b are fitted  
 1051 constants, and e is the Euler number. See section 2.2.1 for other details of these functions.  
 1052

Function <sup>a</sup>	Equation <sup>b, c</sup>	Notes
[1] Linear Rate <sup>1</sup>	$D = 1/(a + bT)$	$T_{\min \text{ est}} = -a/b$
[2] Linear Sum <sup>2</sup>	$D = A + BT$	$T_{\max \text{ est}} = -A/B$
[3] Heip Power <sup>3</sup>	$D = AT^B$	$T_{\min} = 0^{\circ}\text{C}$
[4] Tauti <sup>d</sup> Exponential <sup>4</sup>	$D = Ae^{BT}$	No $T_{\min}$
[5] Quadratic <sup>5</sup>	$D = AT^2 + BT + C$	No $T_{\min}$ , $D_{\min} = C$
[6] Bělehrádek <sup>6, 7</sup>	$D = A(T - T_{\min})^B$	
[7] Modified Arrhenius <sup>8</sup>	$D = 1/[ae^{b(1/(T - T_{\min}))}]$	
[8] Brière-2 <sup>9</sup>	$D = 1/[aT(T - T_{\min})(T_{\max} - T)^{(1/b)}]$	

1053 <sup>a</sup> References for development functions are as follows: <sup>1</sup>Campbell et al. 1974; <sup>2</sup>Winberg (1971);  
 1054 <sup>3</sup>Heip (1974); <sup>4</sup>Tauti (1925); <sup>5</sup>de Oliveira et al. (2009); <sup>6</sup>Bělehrádek (1935); <sup>7</sup>McLaren (1963);  
 1055 <sup>8</sup>Guerrero et al. (1994); <sup>9</sup>Brière et al. (1999); <sup>b</sup> Functions that are usually fitted to development  
 1056 rate ( $d = 1/D$ ) are here represented in their inverted form, from which D can be directly  
 1057 calculated; <sup>c</sup> For clarity lowercase letters (a, b) are used for functions fitted to d, and uppercase  
 1058 letters (A, B, C) are used for functions fitted directly to D; <sup>d</sup> The Exponential function as  
 1059 presented here [4] is mathematically equivalent to the Tauti function,  $D = 1/[ae^{bT}]$ , such that  $a =$   
 1060  $1/A$  and  $b = -B$ , so the two are treated interchangeably.

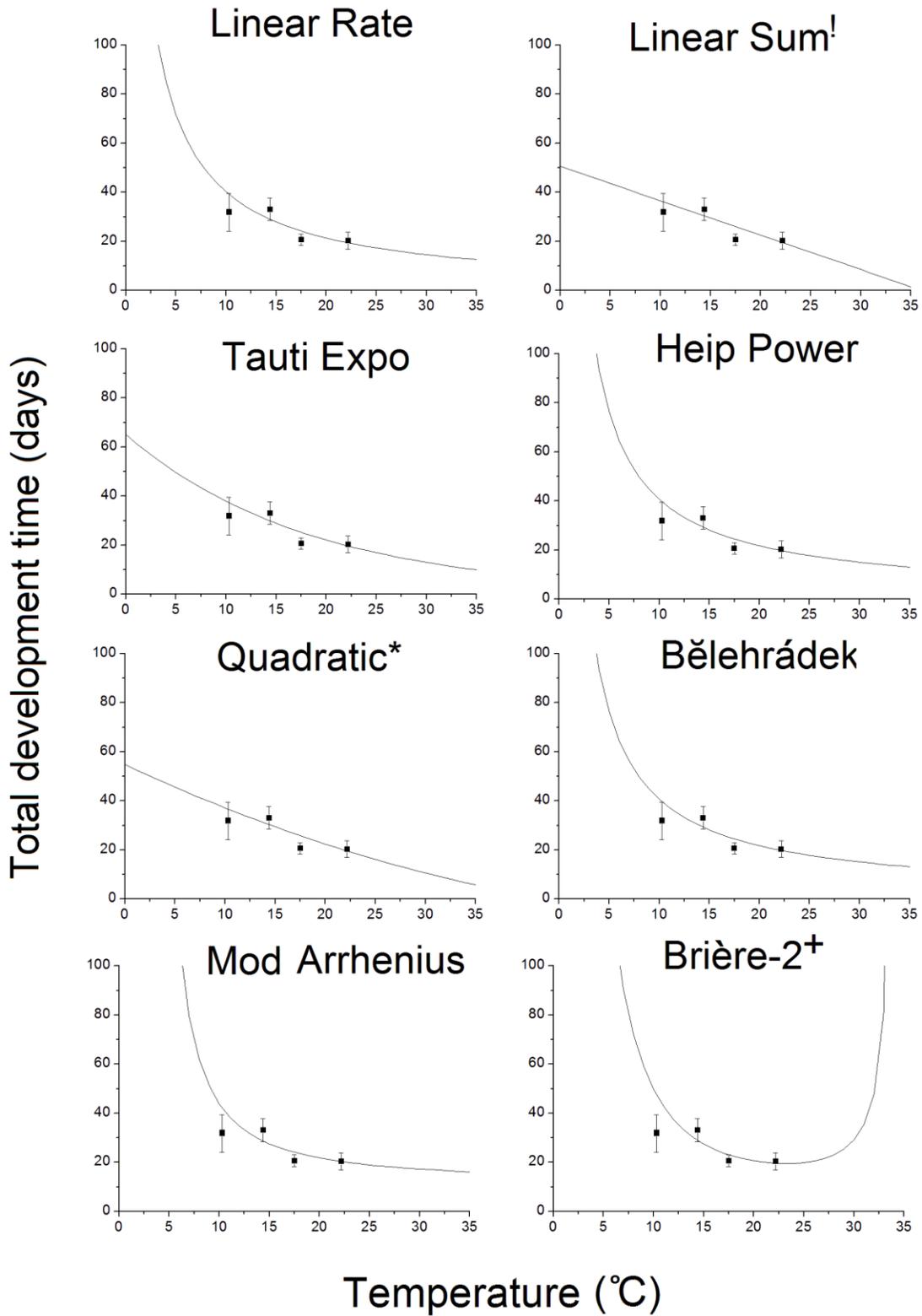
1061 **Table 2.** Correlations between the ranges of temperatures (°C) tested in original studies and rank  
1062 (out of 8) of development functions based on AIC<sub>C</sub> for each species dataset. Pearson's  
1063 correlation coefficient values (R) and their associated p-values (evaluated for n = 52 pairs) are  
1064 presented; statistically-significant p-values ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) are indicated in bold text.

Function	R	p
Linear Rate	+0.067	0.637
Linear Sum	+0.387	<b>0.005</b>
Heip Power	+0.425	<b>0.002</b>
Tauti Exponential	+0.427	<b>&lt; 0.001</b>
Quadratic	+0.056	0.696
Bělehrádek	-0.356	<b>0.010</b>
Modified Arrhenius	-0.510	<b>&lt; 0.001</b>
Brière-2	-0.324	<b>0.019</b>

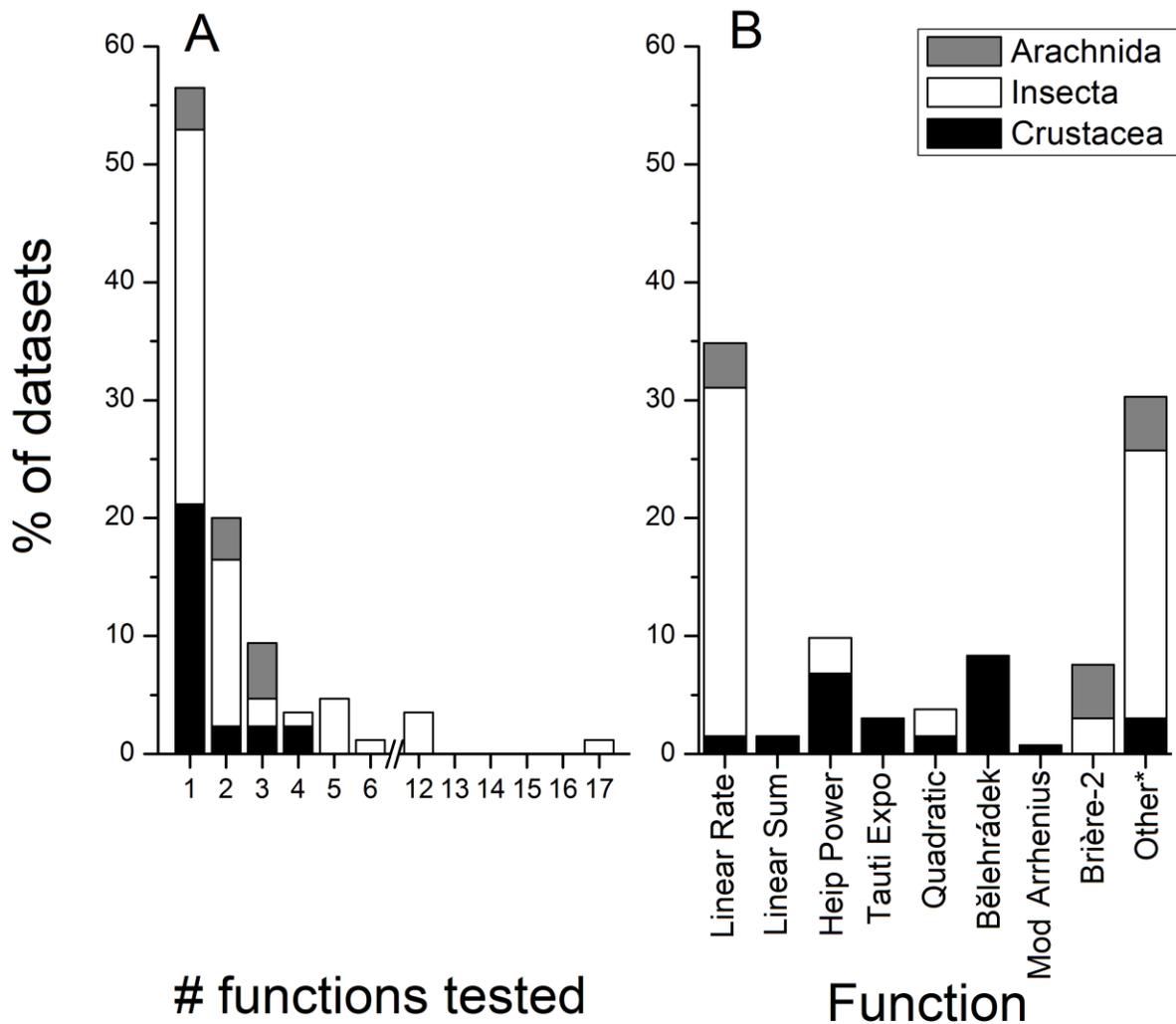
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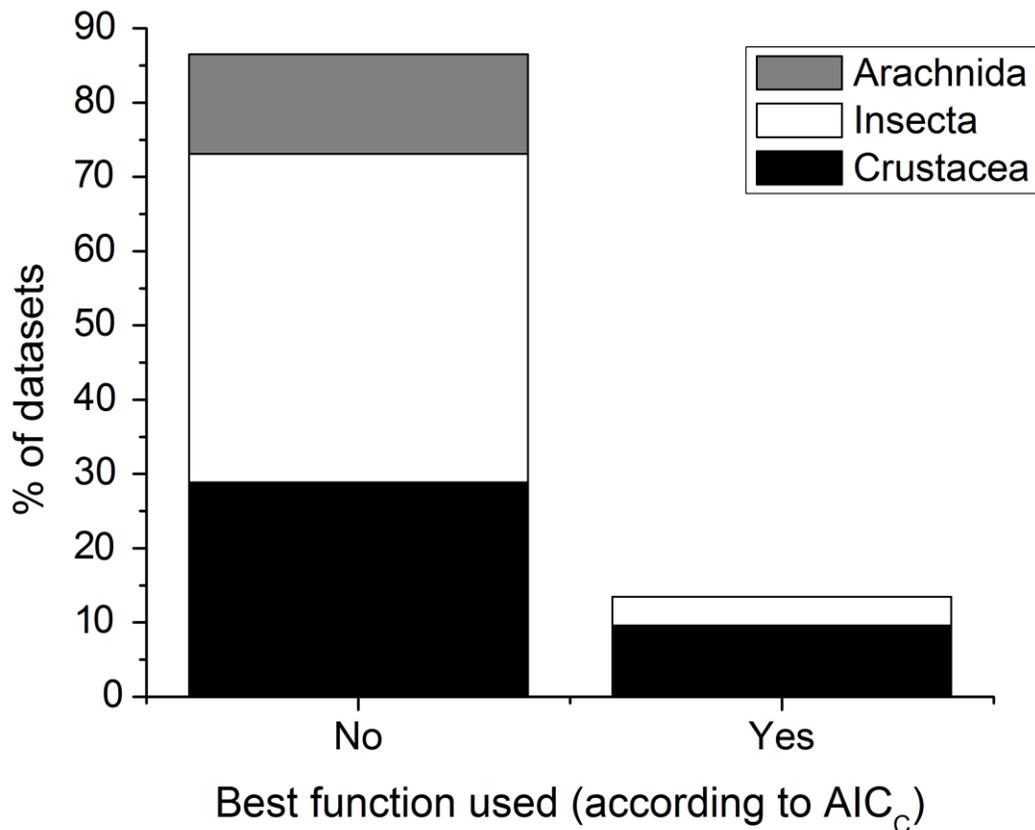


1069 **Figure 1.** (*Preceding page*) Examples of the curves formed by different development functions,  
1070 when these are used to calculate development time (y-axes, days) at different temperatures (x-  
1071 axes, °C). Types of functions plotted here are those presented in Table 1. Actual functions (see  
1072 Table S1) were derived from and fitted to data for total development times (combined time to  
1073 complete larval stages I-III) of American lobster (*Homarus americanus* (H. Milne Edwards,  
1074 1837)) larvae, as reported by Quinn et al. (2013); mean observed development times  $\pm$  95 %  
1075 C.I.s are plotted (squares) along with predictions of development functions (lines). Coefficients,  
1076  $R^2$ ,  $AIC_C$ , and  $\Delta_i$  values for these functions are presented in Table S1. ‘\*’ = function used by  
1077 Quinn et al. (2013) to fit the data, ‘!’ = actual “best” function for these data, and ‘+’ = worst  
1078 function for these data.  
1079



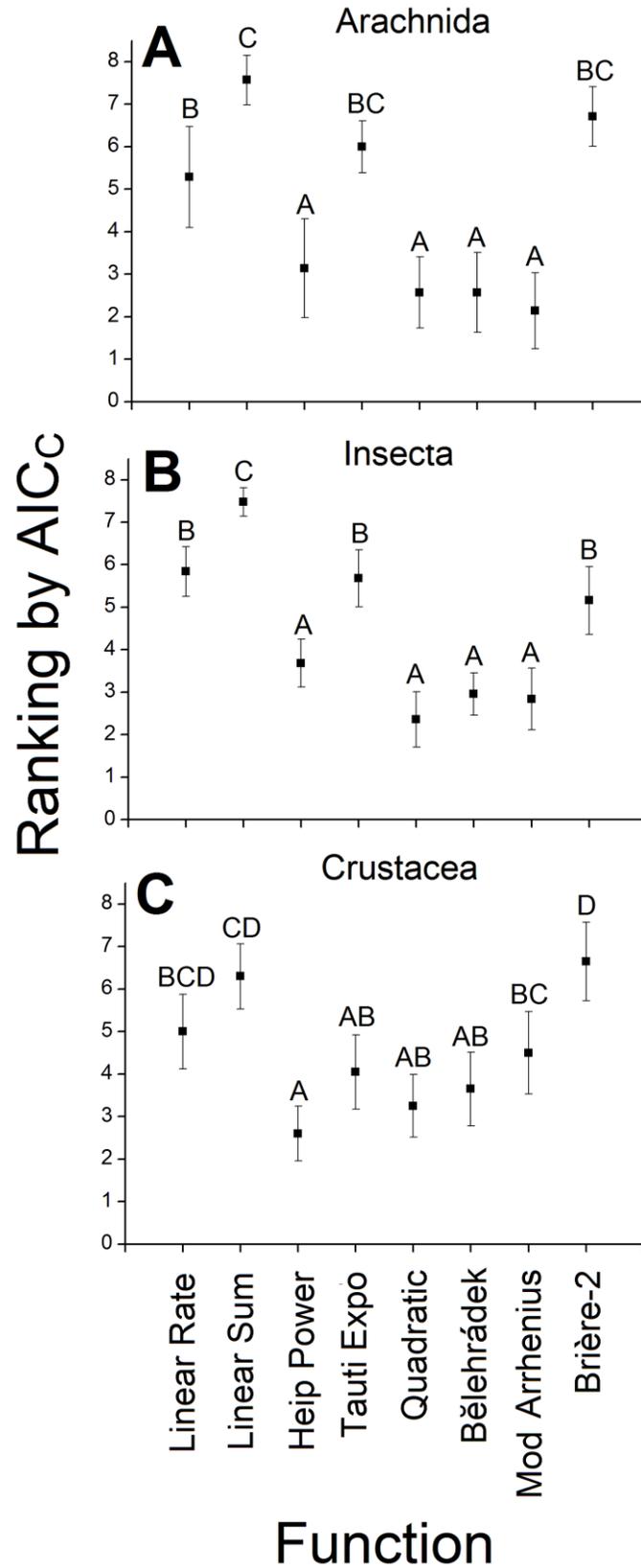
1080

1081 **Figure 2.** Usage in each development study reviewed of (A) one or more different types of  
 1082 development function and (B) specific development function types. The percentage (%) of  
 1083 species datasets obtained in initial literature review (n = 87 total, see Table S2) that were tested  
 1084 with each number and type of functions is plotted on the y-axes and broken down by taxa (gray  
 1085 bars = arachnids, black = insects, and white = crustaceans). Tauti Expo = Tauti Exponential  
 1086 function, and “Mod Arrhenius” = Modified Arrhenius function. \*The “Other” category in (B)  
 1087 includes all function types not otherwise listed; for clarity, if more than one “Other” function was  
 1088 tested by original studies per dataset (see Table S2) it is not counted toward the total shown here.



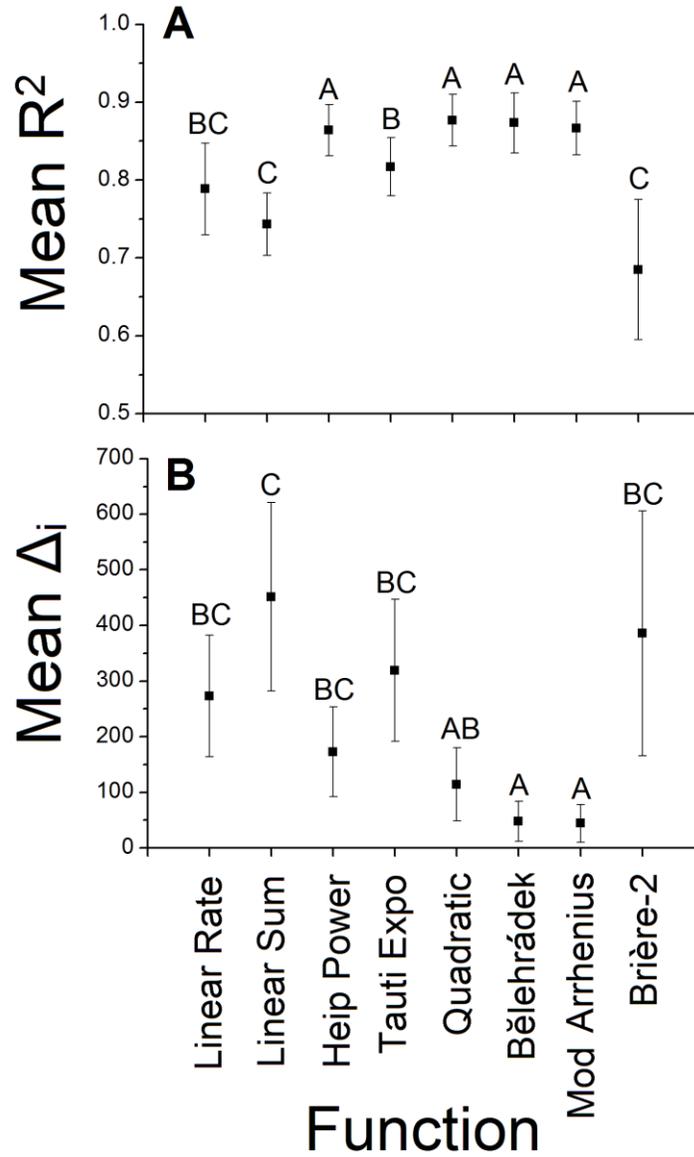
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1090 **Figure 3.** Percentage (%) of species datasets re-analyzed for meta-analysis (n = 52) for which the  
1091 development function found to be best for the data (lowest AIC<sub>C</sub> value, ranking based on AIC<sub>C</sub> =  
1092 1) in this study agreed with the best function as used in its original published study (Best  
1093 function used = Yes) or not (Best function used = No). Results are also broken down by  
1094 taxonomic group, as in Fig. 2.



1096 **Figure 4.** (*Preceding page*) Overall performance (assessed as ranking based on AIC<sub>C</sub> values, y-  
1097 axes) of each development function (x-axes). Function performance was assessed separately for  
1098 each taxon: (A) arachnids (n = 7 species for each function), (B) insects (n = 25), and (C)  
1099 crustaceans (n = 20). Possible rankings ranged from 1 (“best” model) to 8 (“worst”). Values  
1100 plotted are mean rankings per function and taxonomic group taken across all species datasets  
1101 within that group ± 95 % C.I.s. Different letters above each mean indicate functions that ranked  
1102 significantly differently for each taxon (Tukey’s HSD test,  $p \leq 0.05$ ).

1103



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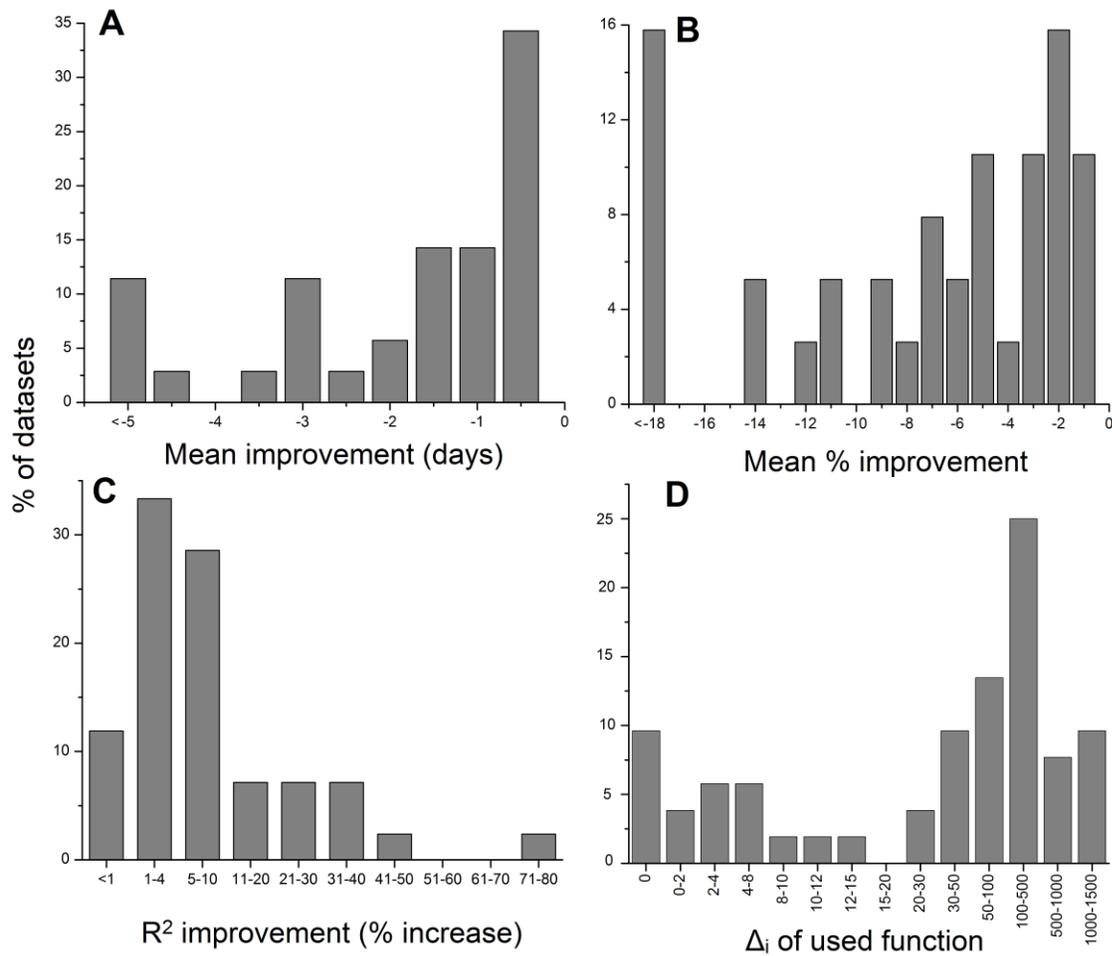
1105 **Figure 5.** Overall performance of different development functions (x-axes) assessed based on

1106 (A) R<sup>2</sup> values and (B) Δ<sub>i</sub> values. Values are means ± 95% C.I.s calculated across all species

1107 datasets (n = 52), in all taxa for each function. Different letters above each mean indicate

1108 functions whose performance differed significantly (Tukey's HSD test, p ≤ 0.05).

1109



1110

1111 **Figure 6.** Improvement in terms of (A) reduced mean error (absolute, in days) between observed  
 1112 and predicted development times, (B) reduced percent (%) prediction error, or (C) improved fit  
 1113 ( $R^2$ ) resulting from using the best function for each species dataset (as determined in this study)  
 1114 as opposed to the function used or found to be best in original published studies. The percentage  
 1115 (%) of species datasets reanalyzed ( $n = 52$ , see Table S2) that showed different levels of  
 1116 improvement is plotted on the y-axes. Also shown are the consequences of using the non-best  
 1117 function in terms of (D) information loss ( $\Delta_i$  of used models); note that  $\Delta_i = 0$  is the best model.