

1 **Running head:** Meta-analysis of amphibian-Bd research

2

3 **Title:** A meta-analysis reveals temperature, dose, life stage, and taxonomy influence host
4 susceptibility to a fungal parasite

5

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28

29 **Abstract:** Complex ecological relationships, such as host-parasite interactions, are often
30 modeled with laboratory experiments. However, some experimental laboratory conditions, such
31 as temperature or infection dose, are regularly chosen based on convenience or convention and it
32 is unclear how these decisions systematically affect experimental outcomes. Here, we conducted
33 a meta-analysis of 58 laboratory studies that exposed amphibians to the pathogenic fungus
34 *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) to better understand how laboratory temperature, host life
35 stage, infection dose, and host species affect host mortality. We found that host mortality was
36 driven by thermal mismatches: hosts native to cooler environments experienced greater Bd-
37 induced mortality at relatively warm experimental temperatures and vice versa. We also found
38 that Bd dose positively predicted Bd-induced host mortality and that the superfamilies
39 Bufonoidea and Hyloidea were especially susceptible to Bd. Finally, the effect of Bd on host
40 mortality varied across host life stages, with larval amphibians experiencing lower risk of Bd-
41 induced mortality than adults or metamorphs. Metamorphs were especially susceptible and
42 experienced mortality when inoculated with much smaller Bd doses than the average dose used
43 by researchers. Our results suggest that when designing experiments on species interactions,
44 researchers should carefully consider the experimental temperature, and inoculum dose, and life
45 stage and taxonomy of the host species.

46 **Introduction**

47 Laboratory experiments are a common tool used in ecology to better understand complex
48 species interactions. However, experimental laboratory conditions are often chosen based on
49 convenience or convention, which could intentionally or unintentionally affect experimental
50 outcomes (Hairston 1989). For example, experiments on temperature-dependent organisms are
51 often conducted at a constant temperature with no justification as to why that temperature was

52 chosen. Furthermore, researchers might select convenient or conventional populations, strains,
53 and densities of organisms to study (Hairston 1989). The consequences of these common
54 decisions for the outcomes of species interaction studies are often not well understood. However,
55 methodological choices are likely to bias extrapolations of experimental results to the population
56 level under natural conditions, potentially affecting management decisions. Disentangling these
57 potential confounding effects of experimental design on host-parasite interactions is therefore
58 critical, especially because of the recent rise in emerging infectious diseases that are causing
59 global declines in biodiversity (Goulson et al. 2015, Scheele et al. 2019). Thus, researchers must
60 understand how test conditions intentionally or unintentionally alter experimental outcomes and
61 affect host-parasite interactions and disease progression, especially for systems in which
62 experimental outcomes can inform resource management and conservation.

63 The pathogenic fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) has been associated with
64 hundreds of amphibian declines worldwide over the past 40 years (Scheele et al. 2019).
65 Consequently, Bd has been the focus of thousands of studies and surveys in recent decades,
66 many of which have been used to inform conservation efforts (Skerratt et al. 2007, Rohr and
67 Raffel 2010, Converse et al. 2017). Bd infects keratinized mouthparts of larval amphibians and
68 keratinized skin on the whole body of post-metamorphic amphibians, degrading the epithelial
69 layer and causing the lethal disease chytridiomycosis (Berger et al. 1998, Pessier et al. 1999,
70 Grogan et al. 2018). Effects of the pathogen on wild host populations vary greatly, with some
71 species experiencing declines, extirpations, or even total extinction, and others experiencing few
72 to no negative impacts (Venesky et al. 2014, Berger et al. 2016, Scheele et al. 2019).
73 Heterogeneity in virulence, tolerance, and resistance among species has led to conflicting

74 findings and much debate about mechanisms that might be driving these apparent differences in
75 mortality risk among host populations (Fisher et al. 2009).

76 Many factors affect Bd-host interactions (Blaustein et al. 2018), including host behavior
77 (Sauer et al. 2018), body size (Carey et al. 2006), Bd isolate (O'Hanlon et al. 2018), zoospore
78 dose (Carey et al. 2006), temperature (Cohen et al. 2017), host taxon (Gervasi et al. 2017), and
79 life stage (McMahon and Rohr 2015). However, the influences of these factors on Bd-host
80 interactions are often not straightforward and not well-understood. For example, many studies
81 have independently concluded that warm temperatures are positively associated with Bd
82 prevalence and host mortality (e.g., Pounds et al. 2006, Bosch et al. 2007), while many others
83 have found associations between Bd outbreaks and cold temperatures or seasons (e.g., Retallick
84 et al. 2004, Kriger and Hero 2007). Recently, a more context-dependent hypothesis, the thermal
85 mismatch hypothesis, was proposed to explain these inconsistencies. This hypothesis suggests
86 that host species adapted to warmer climates should be more susceptible to disease at relatively
87 cool temperatures, whereas cool-adapted host species should be most susceptible during
88 unusually warm periods (Appendix S1: Fig. S1, Cohen et al. 2017). This hypothesis assumes that
89 smaller-bodied pathogens generally have wider thermal breadths than their larger-bodied hosts
90 (Rohr et al. 2018) and are limited by extremes, which allows pathogens to outperform their hosts
91 under abnormal, but not extreme conditions (Cohen et al. 2017). The thermal mismatch
92 hypothesis is supported by multiple laboratory experiments and global-scale analyses of data
93 collected in the field which show warm- and cool-adapted hosts experience faster Bd growth and
94 greater Bd prevalence at cool and warm temperatures, respectively (Cohen et al. 2017, Sauer et
95 al. 2018, Cohen et al. 2019a, Cohen et al. 2019b). However, experimental evidence for this

96 hypothesis is restricted to only three amphibian host species (Cohen et al. 2017, Sauer et al.
97 2018).

98 Conversely, more is understood about the effects of life stage, zoospore dose, and host
99 taxa on Bd-amphibian interactions than the effects of temperature, but the generality of these
100 effects has not been explored in detail. For example, dose (number of infective Bd zoospores a
101 host is exposed to) typically increases host mortality risk (Carey et al. 2006). However, it is
102 unclear which doses are generally needed to produce mortality across life stages, information
103 that would be useful for researchers examining sub-lethal effects of Bd. Finally, many
104 researchers select local, easily-collected study species for experiments out of convenience, but
105 species vary greatly in their susceptibility to Bd (Gervasi et al. 2017). Field evidence has
106 suggested that globally, tropical Bufonidae and Hyloidea species have undergone more severe
107 declines than other groups of amphibians (Scheele et al. 2019). However, mortality risk does not
108 always translate to extinction risk. For example, a cross-taxon study of twenty Anuran species in
109 North America found that Bufonidae species were more susceptible to Bd than Ranidae or
110 Hylidae species despite a greater number of documented Bd-associated declines among Ranidae
111 and Hylidae in North America (Gervasi et al. 2017, Scheele et al. 2019). Thus, a global synthesis
112 of existing data is needed to determine which amphibian taxa have the greatest risk of mortality
113 following Bd exposure independent of factors that might increase extinction risk in the wild (e.g.
114 local climate or restricted range sizes).

115 Understanding how different experimental factors might unexpectedly affect Bd-induced
116 amphibian mortality would allow researchers to better design experiments, target the intended
117 research question, and appropriately apply experimental findings to conservation efforts. Here,
118 we use a meta-analysis of 58 experimental studies conducted in the amphibian-Bd system to

119 assess how common experimental factors affect Bd-induced mortality risk in amphibian hosts.
120 First, we asked if amphibian host susceptibility to Bd is dependent on temperature, predicting
121 that mortality increases when there is a greater mismatch between laboratory temperature and the
122 mean temperature to which the host is adapted. Second, we examined how host life stage (larva,
123 metamorph, or adult) influences susceptibility to Bd, expecting that metamorphs and adults
124 would be more susceptible to Bd than larvae because more of their skin is keratinized. Third, we
125 asked whether Bd dose affects host mortality, predicting that mortality risk increases with Bd
126 dose and that metamorphs are at greatest risk of Bd-induced mortality at relatively low doses.
127 Finally, we examined how host taxonomy influences susceptibility to Bd, expecting that
128 Bufonidae and Hyloidea species would be most susceptible to Bd given the severe Bd-associated
129 declines in those groups. To accomplish these four goals, we searched the published literature for
130 amphibian-Bd laboratory studies and modeled effects of thermal mismatches, life stage, and dose
131 on Bd-induced mortality.

132 **Materials and Methods**

133 *Data collection*

134 Our goal was to synthesize all experimental studies that compared amphibian hosts
135 experimentally infected with Bd in the laboratory to unexposed controls. To accomplish this, we
136 conducted a meta-analysis, which allowed us to standardize and combine results across multiple
137 experiments to draw a broader conclusion than could be typically drawn from any one
138 experiment. We located studies in Web of Science by searching for the term “*Batrachochytrium*
139 *dendrobatidis*” in October 2016, producing 1,403 results. We included laboratory studies
140 meeting all of the following conditions: 1) at least one Bd-exposed treatment paired with an
141 unexposed control group (we did not consider treatments that exposed hosts to additional

142 parasites [e.g. co-infection] or pesticides and other compounds), 2) treatments held at a constant
143 laboratory temperature, 3) hosts were either wild-collected or lab-reared from wild-collected
144 parents to avoid situations where hosts may have adapted to the climatic conditions of the
145 captive-breeding facility, 4) treatment and control mortality, sample sizes, and host and Bd
146 isolate collection location were either available in the manuscript or provided to us by the author
147 when requested (final count: 58 studies). See Appendix S1 for more details regarding data
148 collection.

149 *Effect sizes*

150 In meta-analyses, effect sizes must be calculated to provide a standardized measure of an
151 effect across studies (Borenstein et al. 2011). Because mortality data are binary, we calculated
152 log odds ratios to assess the odds of mortality in the Bd-exposed animals relative to the control
153 animals (Cox 2018), using the following equation:

$$154 \quad \ln OR = \ln \left(\frac{(D_t + Y)/(A_t + Y)}{(D_c + Y)/(A_c + Y)} \right) \quad \text{Eqn. 1}$$

155 where D_t is the number of treatment (i.e. Bd-exposed) animals that died, A_t is the number of
156 treatment animals that survived, D_c is the number of control (i.e. sham-exposed) animals that
157 died, A_c is the number of control animals that survived, and Y ($Y = 1/2$) is a Yate's continuity
158 correction to avoid error in our effect sizes resulting from dividing by zero (Yates 1934). Yate's
159 continuity correction (Y) was only added to effect sizes and variance equations where an error
160 from dividing by zero would have occurred; all other effect sizes and variances were calculated
161 using the same log odds ratio formula but with Y omitted (Sweeting et al. 2004). When
162 conducting analyses, odds ratios must be natural log-transformed to ensure that studies with
163 equal but opposite effects have odds ratios that differ from zero by the same magnitude but in
164 opposite directions (Borenstein et al. 2011). Variance for each effect size was calculated as:

165
$$Var_{lnOR} = \frac{1}{(D_t+Y)} + \frac{1}{(A_t+Y)} + \frac{1}{(D_c+Y)} + \frac{1}{(A_c+Y)} \quad \text{Eqn. 2}$$

166 A log odds ratio significantly greater than zero represents greater mortality in the
167 treatment group than in the control, whereas a log odds ratio with 95% confidence intervals that
168 overlap with zero represents a failure to reject the null hypothesis that Bd exposure has no effect
169 on host survival. We calculated log odds ratios from mortality reported at the end of each
170 experiment, regardless of experimental duration. However, mortality tends to increase over time
171 and studies varied in their duration. We were unable to conduct a time series analysis without
172 losing a large portion of studies, as many did not report survival over time. Therefore, we
173 controlled for inconsistencies in experimental length by including duration of experiment as a
174 moderator in our model (see *Statistical analysis* section).

175 *Statistical analysis*

176 All analyses were conducted in R 3.5.1 (2017). We analyzed the data using a mixed-
177 effects meta-analysis (*metafor* package, *rma.mv* function (2010)), described with the following
178 regression equation:

179
$$y_i \sim \beta_{1i}t_{1i} + \beta_{2i}t_{2i} + \beta_{3i}t_{1i}t_{2i} + \beta_3d_i + \beta_4l_i + \beta_5z_i + \beta_6F_i + \gamma_1e_i + \gamma_2b_i + \gamma_3S_i + v_i \quad \text{Eqn.}$$

180 3

181 Where y_i denotes log odds ratios and v_i denotes log odds ratio variance for the i^{th} effect size. Our
182 primary hypotheses concerned the relationship between experimental conditions and Bd
183 infection outcome, not simply the main effect of Bd on host mortality. Therefore, our models
184 included the following multiple moderators. First, thermal mismatch effect ($t_1 * t_2$), was
185 represented by an interaction between 50-year mean temperature at the host's collection site
186 extracted from WorldClim (t_1 ; assumed host-adapted temperature) and the laboratory
187 temperature (t_2) at which the experiment was conducted. We also considered using mean annual

188 minimum and maximum temperatures as the expected temperature to which hosts have adapted
189 and have included those analyses as well as further explanation for our use of long-term annual
190 mean temperature as assumed host-adapted temperature in Appendix S1 (see Appendix S1: Data
191 collection & Figure S1). Support for the thermal mismatch hypothesis is represented by a
192 negative interaction between these two factors, where cool- and warm-adapted hosts experience
193 the greatest Bd-induced mortality at warm and cool laboratory temperatures, respectively. We
194 also included moderators for effects of experimental duration (*d*), life stage (*l*; three-level
195 categorical variable: larvae, metamorph, adult), log₁₀-transformed Bd zoospore dose (*z*), and
196 taxonomic group (*F*; six-level categorical variable). In order to explore differences in
197 susceptibility among host taxa, species were consolidated into taxonomic groups with larger
198 sample sizes. Thus, taxonomic groups represent either a superfamily (Bufonoidea, Hyloidea,
199 Ranoidea, and Pelobatoidea), or a suborder (Salamandroidea and Archaeobatrachia). See
200 Appendix S1 and Appendix S1: Table S1 for summary information and full list of host species
201 included in the meta-analysis.

202 To avoid bias and risk of type I error, we accounted for between-study random effects (*e*)
203 as well as non-independence among Bd isolates by including Bd isolate (*b*) and host species (*S*)
204 as a random intercept in our models (Borenstein et al. 2011, Civitello et al. 2015). Due to the
205 complex non-independence among effect sizes within a study (e.g. some studies had multiple
206 effect sizes), we did not use funnel plots or rank correlation tests to assess publication bias (Lau
207 et al. 2006, Civitello et al. 2015). To create the partial residual plots, which allowed us to
208 visualize the main effects and interactions in our model (Figs. 2, 3, & 4) while controlling for
209 other covariates in the model, we created an identical meta-analytic model using a Bayesian
210 linear mixed-effects package (*blme* package, *blmer* function (2013); see Appendix S1 for more

211 details) then generated plots using the *visreg* package (Breheny and Burchett 2013). The
212 coefficients and error estimates generated from the *blme* model were identical to the results
213 generated by the *metafor* model (see Appendix S1: Table S2 for comparison). We used this
214 approach because visualization tools for mixed-effects meta-analytic models in *metafor* are
215 currently limited. We report summary statistics and *p*-values from our *metafor* model summary
216 because *metafor* is explicitly intended to be used for meta-analysis and thus reports the
217 appropriate summary statistics, *p*-values, and confidence intervals while *blme* does not.

218 **Results**

219 Our literature search yielded 205 effect sizes from 58 studies and included 47 amphibian
220 species from 11 families. Experiments used a total of 45 unique Bd isolates (DataS1: Database
221 S1). Host species were collected from North and South America, Europe, and Oceania (Fig. 1).
222 Surprisingly, there were no studies that met our inclusion criteria from the Middle East, Asia, or
223 Africa (Fig. 1).

224 When controlling for among-study variance, Bd isolate, host species, and experimental
225 duration, we found a negative interaction between host-adapted temperature and laboratory
226 temperature (thermal mismatch effect) ($z = -2.75$ $p < 0.01$; Table 1 & Fig. 2); cool-adapted hosts
227 experienced the greatest mortality relative to controls at warm laboratory temperatures and
228 warm-adapted hosts experienced the highest mortality relative to controls at cool laboratory
229 temperatures (Table 1 & Fig. 2).

230 Overall, Bd-exposed amphibians experienced higher mortality relative to controls (lnOR
231 = 1.56 ± 0.65 95% CI), but the magnitude of the effect of Bd exposure on Bd-related mortality
232 varied depending on host life stage (Table 1 & Fig. 3). Hosts exposed to Bd as metamorphs
233 experienced the highest odds of mortality (lnOR = 2.48 ± 0.38 95% CI; $k = 87$), followed by

234 adults ($\ln\text{OR} = 1.58 \pm 0.52$ 95% CI; $k = 58$), whereas larvae had the lowest odds of mortality
235 ($\ln\text{OR} = 0.61 \pm 0.45$ 95% CI; $k = 60$). Additionally, we found a significant positive relationship
236 between mortality and Bd dose ($z = 4.00$ $p < 0.01$; Table 1 & Fig. 3).

237 Finally, we found that some host taxa experienced significantly higher mortality from Bd
238 than others (Table & Fig. 4). Bufonoidea had the highest mortality ($\ln\text{OR} = 3.25 \pm 1.18$ 95% CI;
239 $k = 60$) followed by Hyloidea ($\ln\text{OR} = 2.65 \pm 1.78$ 95% CI; $k = 63$) and then Ranoidea ($\ln\text{OR} =$
240 1.34 ± 1.23 95% CI; $k = 47$). Bd exposure did not significantly increase mortality for amphibians
241 belonging to Salamandroidea ($\ln\text{OR} = 0.80 \pm 1.29$ 95% CI; $k = 31$). The number of effect sizes
242 for Scaphiopodidae ($k = 3$) and Leiopelmatidae ($k = 1$) species were minimal so, we did not
243 attempt to interpret those results.

244 **Discussion**

245 Species interactions can be sensitive to environmental conditions. Therefore, differences
246 in laboratory and field conditions can reduce the transferability of empirical insights to
247 management decisions. Here, we synthesized the effects of laboratory conditions that are easily
248 manipulated by experimenters, such as temperature, study organism, developmental stage, and
249 exposure dose. Our literature search highlighted a gap in laboratory studies of hosts and Bd
250 isolates from the Middle East, Asia, and Africa (Fig. 1). Additionally, we found support for the
251 thermal mismatch hypothesis: hosts from cooler climates were more susceptible to Bd at
252 relatively warm lab temperatures, and vice versa (Table 1 & Fig. 2). Our data also show an
253 overall positive effect of Bd exposure on mortality relative to controls (Table 1 & Fig. 3). In
254 addition, we found that the strength of the effect of Bd exposure on mortality was dependent
255 upon host life stage (Table 1 & Fig. 3) and host taxa (Table 1 & Fig. 4). Finally, we showed that

256 Bd zoospore dose is positively related with mortality relative to controls, suggesting higher doses
257 result in greater host mortality (Table 1 & Fig. 3).

258 Our literature search yielded a high number of effect sizes ($k = 205$) and included 47
259 amphibian species from 11 families as well as a 45 unique Bd isolates. However, we detected a
260 geographic bias in the collection location of study organisms; the vast majority of hosts and Bd
261 isolates were from North America and Europe. Less than 10% of our effect sizes represented
262 host species collected from Central and South America or Oceania, and we did not find any
263 effect sizes from Asia or Africa because no studies from these regions met our inclusion criteria.
264 The distribution of amphibian study species matches up poorly with global amphibian diversity,
265 which is higher in South America, Africa, and Asia than in North America or Europe (IUCN
266 2018). Because we were testing the thermal mismatch hypothesis, we did not include studies
267 using hosts that were captive-bred beyond one generation in our study because: 1) hosts might
268 have adapted to laboratory temperature, and 2) many studies lacked precise collection locations.
269 This selection method excluded many studies from Oceania and Central America that used
270 captive-bred imperiled or wild-extinct species out of necessity (Scheele et al. 2019).
271 Furthermore, we were unable to find any studies that tested wild-collected or captive-bred Asian
272 or African host species or Bd isolates that met our inclusion criteria. Future Bd research should
273 consider laboratory experiments on species from these highly neglected areas, because of the
274 strong genetic support for the recent emergence of Bd from northeastern Asia as well as the
275 apparent lack of Bd-contributed declines in the region (O'Hanlon et al. 2018, Scheele et al.
276 2019).

277 Our meta-analysis supported the thermal mismatch hypothesis (Table 1 & Fig. 2). Cool-
278 adapted hosts had the highest Bd-induced mortality at warm temperatures and warm-adapted

279 hosts had the highest mortality at cool temperatures. Previous support for this hypothesis is based
280 primarily on observations in the field and only three species studied in the laboratory (Cohen et
281 al. 2017, Sauer et al. 2018, Cohen et al. 2019a, Cohen et al. 2019b), so our study demonstrates
282 that these patterns also hold under controlled conditions for a broader range of species. Together,
283 results from field and laboratory studies suggest that predicted increases in environmental
284 temperatures caused by climate change might place cool-adapted species at greater risk of
285 disease-related declines than warm-adapted species (Cohen et al. 2017, Sauer et al. 2018, Cohen
286 et al. 2019a, Cohen et al. 2019b). Our results are unlikely to be driven by experiments that were
287 purposely conducted at extreme temperatures because only five of the 58 studies included in this
288 analysis manipulated environmental temperature. The vast majority of studies (49 of the 58
289 included in this analysis) simply conducted their experiments at a constant temperature without
290 providing any justification for choosing that temperature. Researchers might be inadvertently
291 impacting Bd growth and host mortality by conducting their experiments at temperatures that
292 differ from the temperatures to which the host is adapted, potentially increasing host stress
293 (Raffel et al. 2006). Outside of the mounting evidence for the thermal mismatch hypothesis in
294 the Bd-amphibian system, there is a large body of research showing that environmental
295 temperatures greatly impact experimental outcomes in this system as well as other amphibian-
296 disease systems (Rojas et al. 2005, Paull et al. 2012, Brand et al. 2016). Researchers should
297 carefully consider how experimental temperatures and host thermal preferences and tolerances
298 impact the results and management applicability of conclusions drawn from laboratory
299 experiments (Stevenson et al. 2014). Where possible, we encourage researchers to select
300 temperatures that are ecologically relevant for their specific host-pathogen system.

301 As expected, we found an overall positive effect of Bd on host mortality relative to
302 controls (Table 1 & Fig. 3) and the average minimum Bd dose needed to find an effect of Bd on
303 host mortality varied across host life stage (Fig. 3). Amphibians exposed as metamorphs were
304 more likely to experience mortality after Bd exposure than the larval or adult stages.
305 Metamorphosis is energetically costly and there are likely trade-offs occurring between
306 morphological development and the immunological function (Rollins-Smith 1998, Warne et al.
307 2011), which could make metamorphic amphibians more susceptible to Bd-induced mortality
308 than larvae or adults. Larvae, while still susceptible to Bd, were less susceptible to Bd than
309 metamorphs or adults (Table 1 & Fig. 3). Our review of the literature revealed that researchers
310 tend to expose amphibians to similar doses of Bd, despite differences in susceptibility across life
311 stages (mean \log_{10} zoospore dose: larvae = 5.42 ± 0.21 SE; metamorphs = 5.07 ± 0.17 SE; adults
312 = 5.95 ± 0.13 SE; Fig. 1b). Using lower Bd doses, when possible, may improve the ability of
313 researchers to detect differences among treatment groups by preventing rapid death in all
314 treatments due to heavy Bd infection (Carey et al. 2006). This is particularly true for
315 metamorphic amphibians, which are on average dosed with 1000 times more zoospores than
316 needed to find an effect on mortality (Fig. 1 & 3). Additionally, researchers interested in sub-
317 lethal effects of Bd on amphibians might consider running experiments using larval or adult
318 amphibians and/or using very low Bd zoospore doses (approximately $< 10^2$ total zoospores; Fig.
319 1).

320 Finally, we found that Bufonoidea and Hyloidea species had the highest mortality risk,
321 followed by Ranoidea species (Table 1 & Fig. 4). We were not able to detect a significant effect
322 of Bd on Salamandroidea (Table 1 & Fig. 4), which supports field evidence that Salamandroidea
323 species may be less susceptible to Bd than anurans (Bancroft et al. 2011). However, our analysis

324 does not incorporate studies conducted with *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*, which has
325 been associated with declines of salamander populations in Europe (Stegen et al. 2017). Our
326 results are consistent with the severe risk of Bd-associated declines observed in tropical
327 Bufonoidea and Hyloidea species (Scheele et al. 2019). Interestingly, all Bufonoidea species in
328 our analysis are native to temperate regions and only one has been associated with declines,
329 while most declining Bufonoidea are tropical. Thus, other factors such as local climate, thermal
330 and hydric preferences, and small range sizes may be interacting with high host susceptibility to
331 result in population declines in Bufonoidea. Conversely, there were many tropical Hyloidea
332 species in our meta-analysis that have undergone Bd-associated declines or were collected from
333 areas with severe Bd-associated declines.

334 Carefully designed experiments are especially important for understanding systems of
335 conservation concern, including the amphibian-Bd system that has been associated with the
336 decline of >500 amphibian species (Scheele et al. 2019). Additionally, our literature search
337 highlighted the need for more research on hosts and Bd isolates from outside of Europe and
338 North America. The regions with highest levels of amphibian declines (Scheele et al. 2019) and
339 diversity (IUCN 2018) and the longest history of Bd (O'Hanlon et al. 2018) are some of the least
340 studied regions in the world. Finally, our results are consistent with the thermal mismatch
341 hypothesis, suggesting that there are context-dependent effects of environmental temperature on
342 amphibian mortality in this system. This result highlights the need for researchers to carefully
343 consider the thermal tolerances and optima of their host species before choosing an experimental
344 temperature to avoid the confounding effect of thermal mismatch. In summary, because of their
345 ability to alter experimental outcomes, our results suggest that factors such as experimental
346 temperature and the life stages, densities, populations, and taxa of studied species should be

347 carefully considered when designing species interaction experiments and subsequent
348 interpretations for conservation and management.

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- 496

497

Table 1| Results of a mixed-effects meta-analytic model of experiments relating mortality caused by *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* to factors including, temperature, life stage, dosage, and taxon. The main effect of Bd on mortality is indicated by the grand mean whereas the coefficient represents the pooled effect of Bd on mortality as a log odds ratio. For continuous variables, asterisks indicate a slope that deviates significantly from zero where the sign of the coefficient indicates the direction of the effect. For categorical variables (life stage and host taxa), asterisks indicate a significant difference from the grand mean with the coefficient indicating the direction and the difference from the grand mean.

	Coefficient	SE	z value	p value	
Grand mean	1.559	0.314	4.964	< 0.001	*
LongTermTemp	0.288	0.133	2.164	0.031	*
LabTemp	0.189	0.094	1.999	0.046	*
LongTermTemp*LabTemp	-0.019	0.007	-2.746	0.006	*
Duration	0.009	0.004	2.159	0.031	*
Larvae	-0.947	0.228	-3.983	< 0.001	*
Metamorph	0.924	0.195	4.740	< 0.001	*
Adult	0.023	0.266	0.087	0.931	
logDose	0.454	0.114	3.997	< 0.001	*
Bufoidea	1.690	0.657	2.573	0.010	*
Hylaidea	1.093	0.601	1.817	0.069	
Ranaidea	-0.218	0.628	-0.347	0.729	
Salamandroidea	-0.759	0.660	-1.152	0.249	

498

499 **Figure captions**

500

501 **Figure 1** | Distribution of (A) experimental temperatures, (B) *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*
502 (Bd) zoospore doses, and (C) host life stages used in Bd-amphibian experiments for studies
503 included in the mixed-effects meta-analysis of experiments relating mortality caused by Bd to
504 experimental factors. (D) Map showing where hosts (blue points) and Bd isolates (red points)
505 were collected from for studies included in the meta-analysis. All points on the map have the
506 same opacity; locations where points appear darker indicate spatial overlap.

507

508 **Figure 2**| Partial residual plot for the effect of laboratory temperature on mortality of (A) cold-
509 adapted (20th percentile long-term mean temperature, or climate: $< 4.8^{\circ}\text{C}$) and (B) warm-adapted
510 hosts (80th percentile long-term mean temperature: $> 16.2^{\circ}\text{C}$) *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*
511 (Bd)- exposed animals relative to controls (presented as an odds ratio) between 29 and 42 days
512 after Bd exposure. The plot displays a significant two-way interaction between historic 50-year
513 mean temperature at the collection location of the host and experimental laboratory temperature
514 from a mixed-effects meta-analysis of experiments relating mortality caused by Bd to
515 experimental factors. Positive values indicate greater mortality among Bd-exposed animals than
516 among unexposed control animals. Points represent individual studies included in the meta-
517 analysis and grey-shading shows associated 95% credible bands.

518

519 **Figure 3**| Partial residual plot showing the effect of *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) dose
520 ($\log_{10}(\text{zoospores})$) on mortality of Bd-exposed animals relative to controls (presented as natural
521 log odds ratio) on A) larvae, B) metamorphs, and C) adult hosts. Positive values indicate greater

522 mortality among Bd-exposed animals than among unexposed control animals. Points represent
523 individual studies included in the mixed-effects meta-analysis of Bd-experiments and grey-
524 shading shows associated 95% credible bands.

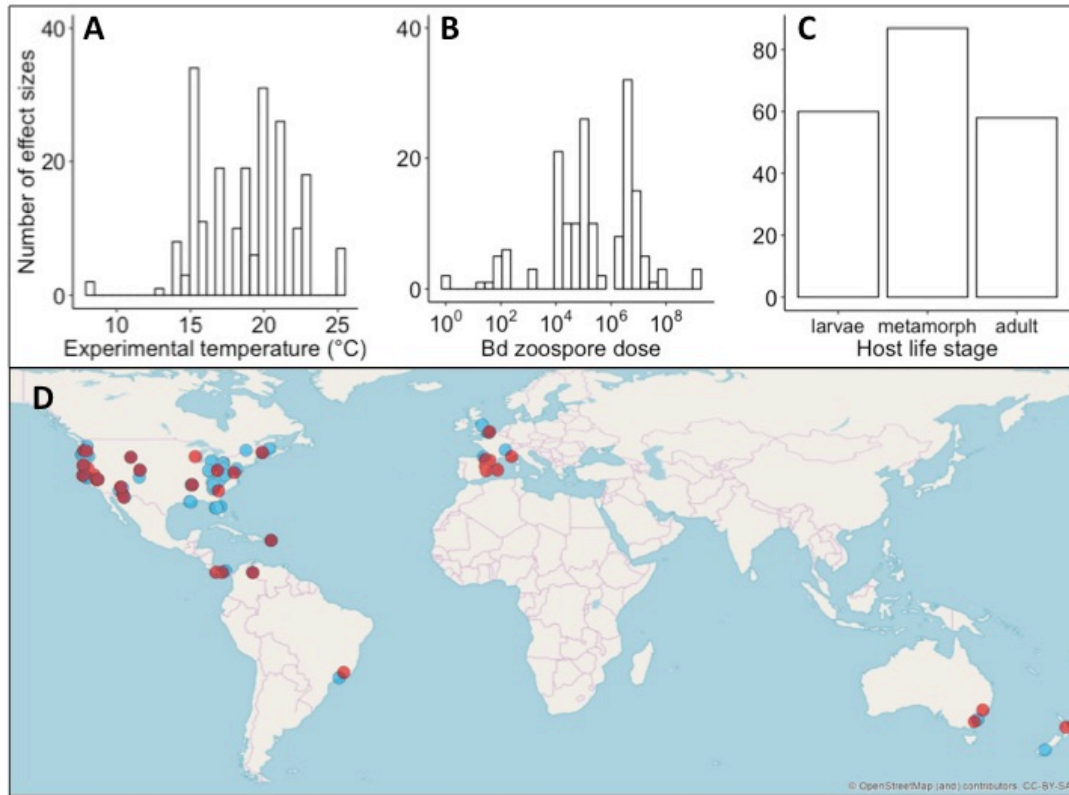
525

526 **Figure 4** | Forest plot of the marginal mean effect of *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) on
527 host mortality relative to controls of taxonomic groups (presented as natural log transformed
528 odds ratio). Effect sizes are the result of a mixed-effects meta-analysis of experiments relating
529 mortality caused by Bd to experimental factors. Positive values indicate greater mortality among
530 Bd-exposed animals than among unexposed control animals. Asterisks indicate a significant
531 difference from zero. Points represent the mean effect for that taxonomic group and error bars
532 show associated 95% confidence interval

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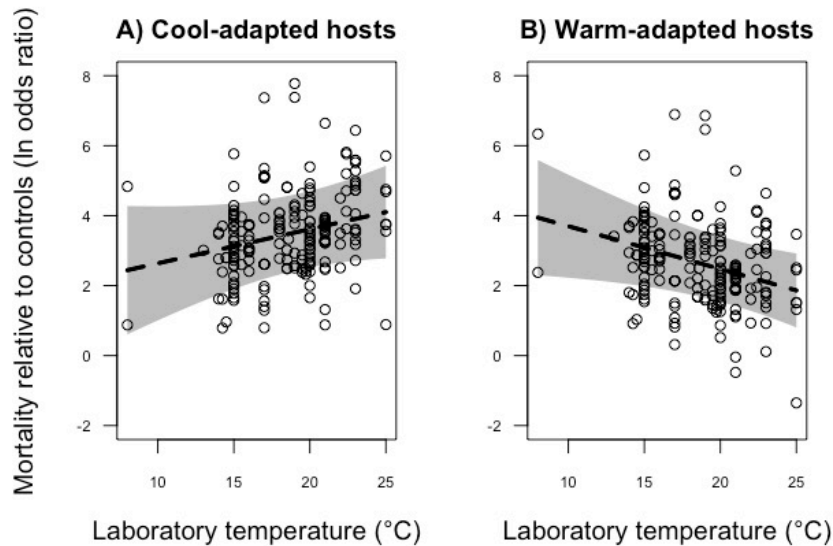
535 **Figures**
536 **Figure 1**



537
538 **Figure 1** | Distribution of (A) experimental temperatures, (B) Bd zoospore doses, and (C) host
539 life stages used in Bd-amphibian experiments for studies included in the meta-analysis. (D) Map
540 showing where hosts (blue points) and Bd isolates (red points) were collected from for studies
541 included in the meta-analysis. All points on the map have the same opacity; locations where
542 points appear darker indicate spatial overlap.

543

544 **Figure 2**
545



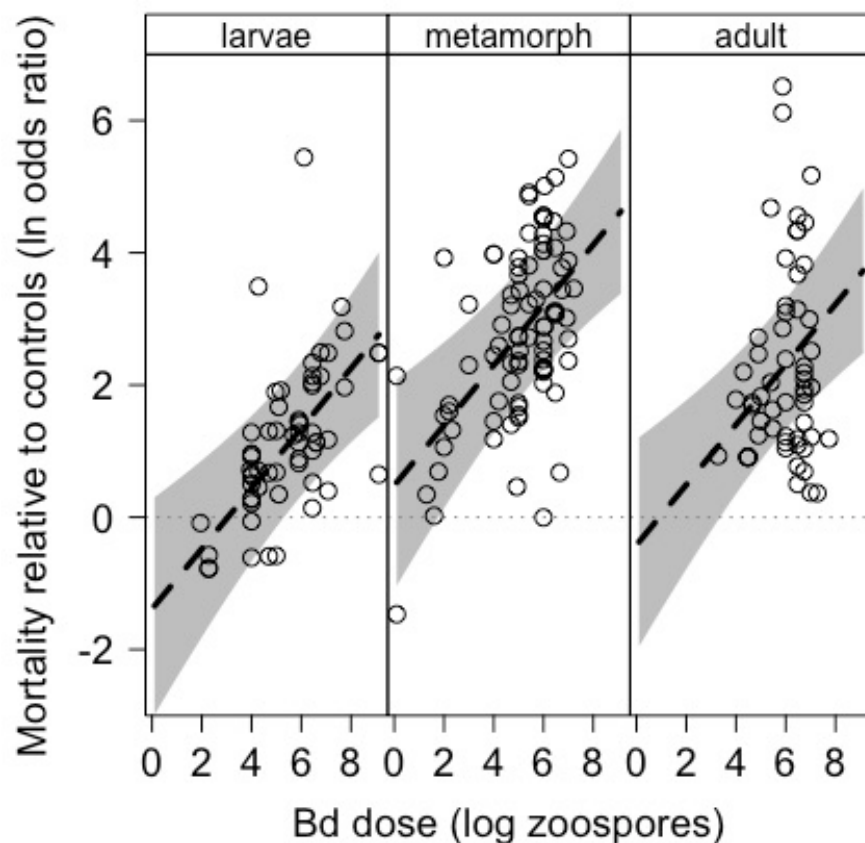
546
547

548 **Figure 2** | Partial residual plot showing the predicted effect of laboratory temperature on
549 mortality of (A) cold-adapted (20th percentile 50-year mean temperature, or climate: 4.8°C) and
550 (B) warm-adapted hosts (80th percentile 50-year mean temperature: 16.2°C) relative to control
551 animals (presented as an odds ratio on the y-axis) between 29 and 42 days after Bd exposure.

552 The plot displays the significant two-way interaction between historic 50-year mean temperature
553 at the collection location of the host and experimental laboratory temperature. Positive values
554 indicate greater mortality among Bd-exposed animals than among unexposed control animals.

555 Points represent individual studies included in the meta-analysis and grey-shading shows
556 associated 95% credible bands.

557 **Figure 3**

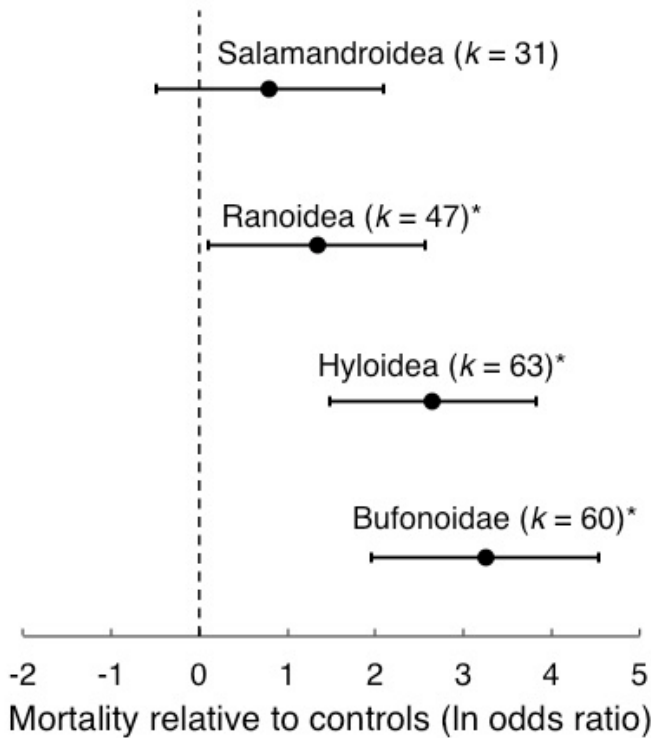


558
559

560 **Figure 3** | Partial residual plot showing the effect of Bd dose ($\log_{10}(\text{zoospores})$) on mortality of
561 Bd-exposed animals relative to controls (presented as natural log odds ratio) on A) larvae, B)
562 metamorphs, and C) adult hosts. Positive values indicate greater mortality among Bd-exposed
563 animals than among unexposed control animals. Points represent individual studies included in
564 the meta-analysis and grey-shading shows associated 95% credible bands.

565

566 Figure 4



567

568 **Figure 4** | Forest plot of the marginal mean effect of Bd on host mortality relative to controls of

569 taxonomic groups (presented as natural log transformed odds ratio). Positive values indicate

570 greater mortality among Bd-exposed animals than among unexposed control animals. Asterisks

571 indicate a significant difference from zero. Points represent the mean effect for that taxonomic

572 group and error bars show associated 95% confidence intervals.

573