

# Individuals with higher metabolic rates have lower levels of reactive oxygen species *in vivo*

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Short title: metabolism and ROS *in vivo*

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## ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL (ESM)

### Collecting and housing.

Juvenile brown trout collected from the wild were transported to the University of Glasgow where they were held in a 400 litre tank and allowed to acclimate for one month. Fish were then reared in individual compartments of a stream tank system under standard conditions of temperature (mean  $\pm$  actual range  $11.5 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ ) and photoperiod (12 L: 12 D) and food (Inicio Plus trout pellets 141, BioMar Ltd, Grangemouth, UK) (see more details in [1]). During 17 weeks of acclimation within the individual compartments, fish were individually provided with a specific food ration every day calculated as: calories =  $16.3W^{0.737} e^{(0.154T)}$ , where  $W$  is body mass (g) and  $T$  is water temperature  $12^\circ\text{C}$  [2].

From week 18 to 22, the daily ration was reduced to: calories =  $11.4W^{0.737} e^{(0.154T)}$  [2]. This ration was calculated to be sufficient to allow the fish to grow at a modest rate (data not shown) but was insufficient to cause satiation, so that the entire ration would be eaten each day and food intake (relative to body mass) would therefore be similar between all individuals over the 5 weeks. Fish were kept on this ration for the rest of the experiment, except during measurements of both the standard metabolic rate (SMR) and hydrogen peroxide ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ) content and 48h preceding these, on week 21 and 22 respectively. Fish were weighed every 2 weeks to adjust food rations to changes in their body size. Water quality was maintained by siphoning water and faecal matter on a daily basis. Feeding adjustments, SMR measurements, and exposure to the MitoB probe were processed in 8 batches of 5 fish over 8 days.

### Measurement of oxygen consumption

SMR was measured in undisturbed fish in a flow through system over a 20h period at  $11.5^\circ\text{C}$ . Full details are given in [1], but in brief, batches of five fish were kept in individual respirometry chambers in the dark, with an empty chamber being used as a control. Air-saturated water was pulled through the chambers with a peristaltic pump at  $1.68 \text{ L h}^{-1}$  to a fibre-optic oxygen sensor (robust probe; PyroScience GmbH, Aachen, Germany). Oxygen ( $\text{O}_2$ ), temperature, and barometric pressure data were read by multichannel oxygen meters (FireStingO2, PyroScience) and collected using FireSting software version 3.0 (PyroScience). Oxygen consumption ( $\text{mg O}_2 \text{ h}^{-1}$ ) was calculated according to the equation

$$M_{\text{O}_2} = V_w \times (C_{\text{wO}_2\text{control}} - C_{\text{wO}_2\text{fish}}),$$

where  $V_w$  is the flow rate of water through the respirometry chamber ( $\text{L h}^{-1}$ ), and  $C_{\text{wO}_2\text{control}}$  and  $C_{\text{wO}_2\text{fish}}$  are the concentrations of oxygen ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ ) in the outflow of the chambers lacking and containing fish respectively, after adjusting for temperature and barometric pressure. SMR was calculated by taking the mean of the lowest 10<sup>th</sup> percentile of oxygen consumption measurements over the 20h measurement period, and then excluding outliers, i.e. those measurements below 2 standard deviations from this mean [3]; SMR was expressed as  $\text{mg O}_2 \text{ h}^{-1}$ . Following the SMR measurement, body weight was measured by briefly anaesthetising the fish (50 mg/l benzocaine diluted in water). Fish were then returned to their individual tanks and allowed a week of recovery. The SMR of juvenile brown trout kept under constant condition has been shown to be highly repeatable over periods of several weeks [4, 5]. Consequently, SMR at week 22, when the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  assay was measured, was likely to be consistent with SMR measured at week 21.

### Fish exposure to the MitoB probe

Measurements of *in vivo* H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> levels were made using the MitoB probe adapted for use on fish from the protocol of Cocheme *et al.* [6]. Fish were transferred at week 22 to individual tanks containing 2 L of aerated water and allowed to acclimate without food and in darkness for 24h. They were then briefly anaesthetised (50 mg/ml benzocaine diluted in water) and given an intraperitoneal injection of a standard dose of MitoB solution (100 µL of 504.09 µM MitoB, i.e. 50 nmol/fish), previously diluted in 0.7% (v/v) ethanol and sterile saline solution 0.9% (w/v) NaCl / H<sub>2</sub>O. Each fish was returned to its individual tank and left for at least 24h (mean ± SE: 27.95 ± 0.10h, no detectable effect of this duration on H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> content: F<sub>1,30.74</sub> = 0.73, P = 0.40) without food and in darkness to simulate the conditions under which SMR was measured. The fish were then culled and their liver immediately dissected and flash frozen in liquid nitrogen. Liver was chosen because previous studies have shown a strong association between SMR and hepatic mitochondrial function [7, 8]. A supplementary group of 8 control fish from the same cohort of brown trout collected from the wild was treated in exactly the same manner as the experimental fish except they were not anaesthetised nor injected with MitoB solution. One control fish was included per batch processing in order to obtain a blank control value for the subsequent high performance liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrophotometer (HPLC-MS) analysis. The time course of the compounds MitoB and MitoP in the fish was assessed in an independent group of juvenile brown trout kept at 12°C. The amount of MitoB (injection of 50 nmol/fish, n = 20 fish) or MitoP (injection of 50 nmol/fish, n = 20 fish) per a mg of liver was recorded 3h, 12h, 24h, 48h and 72h post-injection (n = 4 fish per time point). There was no detectable difference in the kinetic between MitoB and MitoP (mean ± SE: MitoB = -0.20 ± 0.45 pmol h<sup>-1</sup> mg liver<sup>-1</sup>; MitoP = -0.09 ± 0.45 pmol h<sup>-1</sup> mg liver<sup>-1</sup>; F<sub>1,77.02</sub> = 0.03, P = 0.86).

### Extraction of the probes

The MitoB and MitoP probes and their deuterium spikes deuterium<sub>15</sub>-MitoB (*d*<sub>15</sub>MitoB) and deuterium<sub>15</sub>-MitoP (*d*<sub>15</sub>MitoP) were synthesized at the University of Glasgow according to [9] and kept at -20 °C. Methods for extraction, quantification and analysis of the probe were adapted from [6]. Extractions were processed in 4 batches, each containing two blank control fish plus 10 experimental fish (combining 2 of the batches of five fish processed for the measurement of SMR and exposure to the probe). To extract MitoB and MitoP from fish livers, aliquots (mean ± SE: 15.43 ± 0.73 mg) were homogenised in 500 µL of a solution containing 60% (v/v) acetonitrile (ACN) and 0.1 % (v/v) formic acid (FA), using a Potter tissue grinder (cordless motor, Sigma-Aldrich) with a Teflon pestle in a 1.5 mL Eppendorf tube on ice. The pestle was washed with 250 µL of the solution of 60% ACN and 0.1 % v/v FA and this wash was combined with the original homogenate. Homogenates were spiked with 10 µL of absolute ethanol containing 100 pmol *d*<sub>15</sub>MitoB and 50 pmol *d*<sub>15</sub>MitoP and vortexed for 30 sec. After centrifuging for 10 min at 16,000 g, the supernatant was kept aside and the pellet re-extracted by vortexing in 500 µL of the solution of 60% ACN, 0.1 % FA. After further centrifuging for 10 min at 16,000 g, the second supernatant was pooled with the first one, and centrifuged for a final 10 min at 16,000g in microcentrifuge filters (containing a PVDF membrane with pore size of 0.22 µm between the upper and lower parts of the tube). The filtered solution was collected in the lower part of the microcentrifuge filter and transferred into a new tube to dry under a vacuum overnight. The dried samples were re-dissolved in 200 µL of a solution containing 20% ACN, 0.1 % FA by vortexing for 30 sec. These dissolved samples were then centrifuged for 10 min at 16,000g and the supernatant carefully transferred to auto-sampler vials, which were stored at -70°C until HPLC-MS analysis for quantification of relative concentrations of the two versions of the probe and their spikes.

## Quantification of the probes

Analysis of the MitoB, MitoP,  $d_{15}$ MitoB and  $d_{15}$ MitoP was conducted using a Thermo Scientific Accela™ HPLC (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA, USA), consisting of an HPLC pump, and an autosampler cooled to 4 °C. Chromatographic separation was performed at 40 °C using a hypersil gold column (150 mm x 2 mm, I.D. 2.0 μm) with guard column at constant flow rate of 300 μL min<sup>-1</sup>. The mobile phase comprised ACN and 0.1 % FA, delivered according to the gradient program given in table S1. Fish samples or standards (10 μL) were injected in the mobile phase. After passing through the HPLC, the column eluate was directed to an Exactive Orbitrap trap MS (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Hemel, UK) fitted with an electrospray interface in order to quantify the peak. Nitrogen was used as the sheath and auxiliary gas, with electrospray ionization in positive ion mode (sheath and auxiliary gas = 60 and 20 units; spray voltage = 4.5 kV; capillary temperature = 300 °C). The mass spectrophotometer was set up in positive ionization to scan from mass-to-charge ratio ( $m/z$ ) 350.00 to  $m/z$  420.00, resolution was set at 60,000. The HPLC-MS system was controlled using Xcalibur software (Thermo Fisher Scientific).

Calibration curves were performed with standards of MitoB,  $d_{15}$ MitoB, MitoP and  $d_{15}$ MitoP (Table S2). Vials containing samples (n = 40 treated plus 8 control fish, diluted by 10) and standards (n = 10) were defrosted, vortexed for few seconds, and placed in an autosampler in a refrigerated holder at 4 °C until the end of the analysis. All vials were run in duplicate (repeatability of measurements, all based on n = 58 samples, MitoP: r = 0.98,  $P < 0.001$ ,  $d_{15}$ MitoP: r = 0.75,  $P < 0.001$ , MitoB: r = 0.98,  $P < 0.001$ ,  $d_{15}$ MitoB: r = 0.81,  $P < 0.001$ ).

## Calculation of MitoP/MitoB ratio

For all analysed samples (control fish, treated fish and standards), the absolute area for the 4 peaks (i.e. for MitoP,  $d_{15}$ MitoP, MitoB and  $d_{15}$ MitoB) from the HPLC-MS response was analysed by Xcalibur software (Thermo Fisher Scientific) according to their mass-to-charge ratios ( $m/z$ ), within  $m/z$  369.1380-369.1440,  $m/z$  384.2310-384.2370,  $m/z$  397.1500-397.1560 and  $m/z$  412.2440-412.2500 respectively. Peaks from the standards were used to produce calibration curves of mean of absolute area of the two replicates against pmol of MitoP,  $d_{15}$ MitoP, MitoB and  $d_{15}$ MitoB (Figure S1); Absolute areas for the treated samples lay within the linear section of the calibration curves, except for two samples which were excluded from subsequent analyses (descriptive statistics given in table S3). The absolute areas of MitoP and MitoB for the control fish were below the detection level and so were not considered for calculation. The mean absolute areas from the two analysed samples per treated fish were determined for each of the four compounds, and converted into pmol using the appropriate calibration curve.

The homogenates initially contained 100 pmol  $d_{15}$ MitoB and 50 pmol  $d_{15}$ MitoP as internal spikes, which allowed calculation of individual coefficients for extraction efficiency of  $d_{15}$ MitoB and  $d_{15}$ MitoP from the final extracted values (coefficient of extraction  $d_{15}$ Mito B =  $0.39 \pm 0.02$ ,  $d_{15}$ Mito P =  $0.42 \pm 0.04$ ). The amounts of MitoP and Mito B were corrected using these individual extraction coefficients, and the ratio MitoP/MitoB calculated for each fish. Finally, mitochondrial H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> content was estimated as the MitoP/MitoB ratio using the equation below:

$$\text{MitoP/MitoB ratio} = \frac{1}{t} \ln \left( \frac{\text{MitoP}}{\text{MitoB}} + 1 \right)$$

where  $t$  = actual duration of MitoB exposure in hours. The ratio MitoP/MitoB is a suitable proxy of  $H_2O_2$  content even if difference in membrane potential among individuals occurred because the amount of MitoB that accumulates in the mitochondrial matrix is relatively consistent over the range of membrane potential *in vivo* [10].

### **Citrate synthase and Cytochrome c oxidase activity**

The citrate synthase (CS) and cytochrome c oxidase (COX) assays were adapted from [11]. Frozen liver was homogenized with a Potter tissue grinder with a Teflon pestle in a 1.5 mL Eppendorf tube on ice at a concentration of 100 mg wet tissue / mL buffer (20 mM Tris, 100 mM KCl, 2 mM EGTA, 250 mM Sucrose and pH 7.4 at 4°C). The homogenate was centrifuged at 600g for 10min at 4°C, and then 3 aliquots of supernatant (one for each of protein assay, CS assay and COX assay, so ensuring no repetition of freezing - thawing step) were flash frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -70°C until analysed.

Determination of the protein content of the liver was performed in duplicate using a bicinchoninic acid assay [12], where bovine serum albumin was used as standard and absorbance was read at 562 nm (repeatability:  $n = 35$ ,  $r = 0.98$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).

Enzymatic activities were measured spectrophotometrically at 25°C, in triplicate on a microplate (POLARstar® Omega, BMG labtech) and with shaking. COX activity was assessed in KPi buffer (50 mM, pH 7.4) pre-equilibrated at 25°C. Reduced cytochrome c was prepared from equine heart cytochrome c solution incubated for 1 hour with ascorbic acid solution at 4°C (pH 7.0). The mixture was filtered in a desalting column to purify the reduced cytochrome c solution from the ascorbic acid. Aliquots of reduced cytochrome c solution were kept in liquid nitrogen until use. The stability of the solution was tested before each COX activity assay (see below for details as same condition as the blank activity): the decrement of a 50  $\mu$ M solution at 550 nm was below 0.005 OD per minute, indicating no excessive auto-oxidation [11].

Before each COX activity assay, the concentration of the reduced cytochrome c solution was measured at 550 nm and its state of reduction was assessed by calculating the ratio of the absorbance values at 550 nm to those at 565 nm, with a ratio greater than 6 being considered acceptable. The absorbance of the blank was measured in the presence of 50  $\mu$ M of reduced cytochrome c, and monitored as the rate of disappearance of reduced cytochrome c by measuring the absorbance at 550 nm every 15 sec for 3 min; this rate was found to be linear over the last min. The COX activity of the sample was initiated by adding 12.20 mg  $mL^{-1}$  of sample to the solution of 50  $\mu$ M of reduced cytochrome c, and immediately measuring the absorbance at 550 nm every 15 sec for 1 min. Background activity was evaluated for 20 of the 40 samples by running the assay in parallel with 300  $\mu$ M of potassium cyanide; it was found not to be detectable, so no correction was needed. The results were expressed as the rates of reduced cytochrome c disappearance ( $nmol\ min^{-1}\ mg^{-1}$  of protein) using an extinction coefficient of 18.5 (repeatability of triplicate:  $n = 34$ ,  $r = 0.85$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).

CS activity was assessed using a homogenate concentration of 2.5mg  $mL^{-1}$  of a Tris buffer (100 mM Tris, pH 8, 0.1 % (v/v) triton 100X) pre-equilibrated at 25°C. CS activity was monitored as the rate of generation of thionitrobenzoate anion, by measuring the absorbance at 412 nm. For each replicate blank activity levels were calculated by running the homogenate in buffer with 100 $\mu$ M 5,5'-dithiobis(2-nitrobenzoic acid) and 300 $\mu$ M acetyl CoA for 1 min. The reaction was then initiated by adding 0.1 mM oxaloacetic acid and measuring the absorbance for 10 min. The results were expressed as the rate of

production of thionitrobenzoic acid ( $\text{nmol min}^{-1} \text{mg}^{-1}$  of protein) using an extinction coefficient of 13.6 (repeatability of triplicate:  $n = 31$ ,  $r = 0.50$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ).

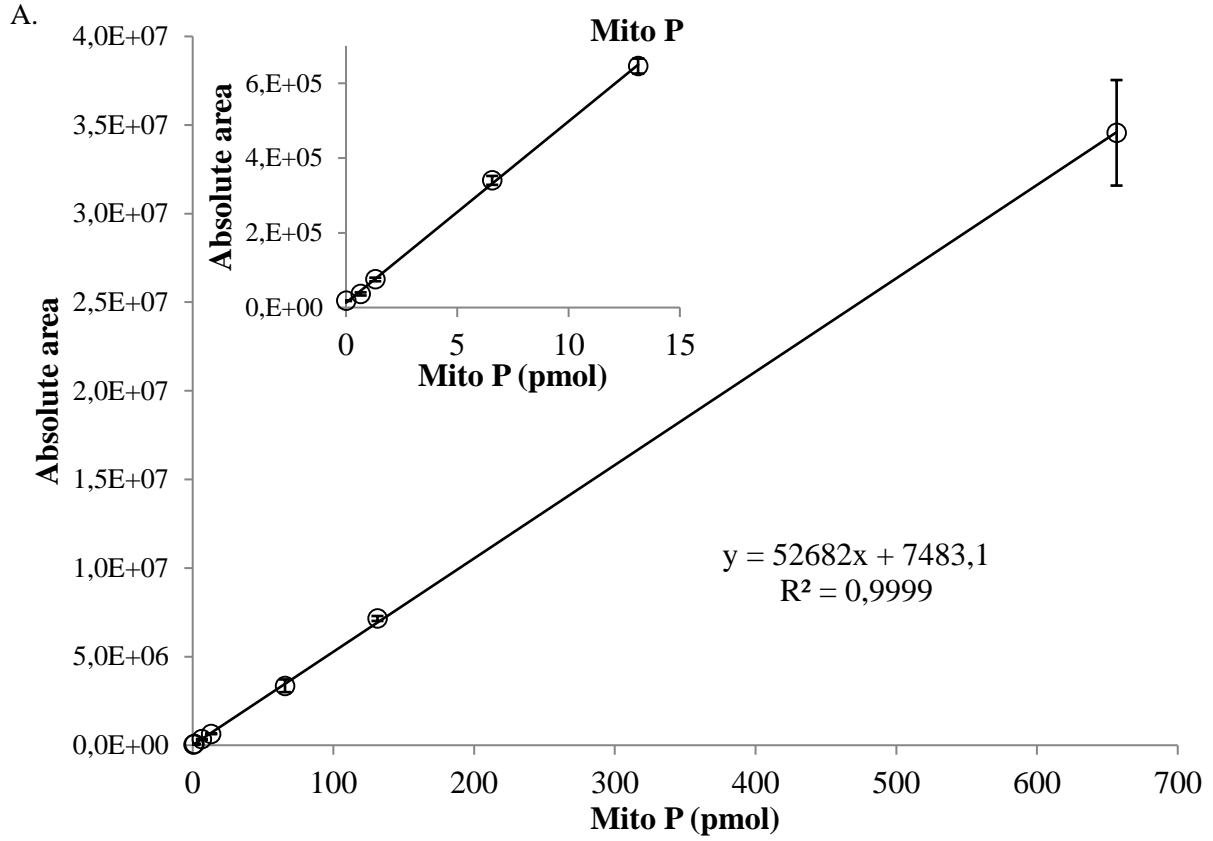
### **Statistical analyses**

SMR and body mass were  $\log_{10}$ -transformed. We used regression analysis of  $\log$  SMR on  $\log$  body mass to determine the residual variation in SMR (rSMR) once the effects of body mass were removed (Figure S2). We analysed the factors predicting inter-individual variation in MitoP/MitoB ratio using a linear mixed effect model, with MitoP/MitoB ratio as the dependent variable, rSMR, CS activity, COX activity and concentration of MitoB at injection as continuous predictors, and batch processing as a random effect. Non-significant terms were dropped sequentially until only significant factors remained. Collinearity diagnostics were performed by quantifying variance inflation factors (VIF) to explore multi-collinearity among the predictor variables, but VIF values were all found to be below 2 indicating that there were no issues of collinearity. Two fish had outlier values for one of the Mito compounds and were dropped from the analysis, so that analyses are based on a sample size of 38 fish, with the exception of those analyses including COX and CS activity where the sample size was 35 because COX and CS activity was not measured in 3 individuals. Data were analysed using IBM SPSS Statistics 22 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). The level of significance was set to  $P < 0.05$ .

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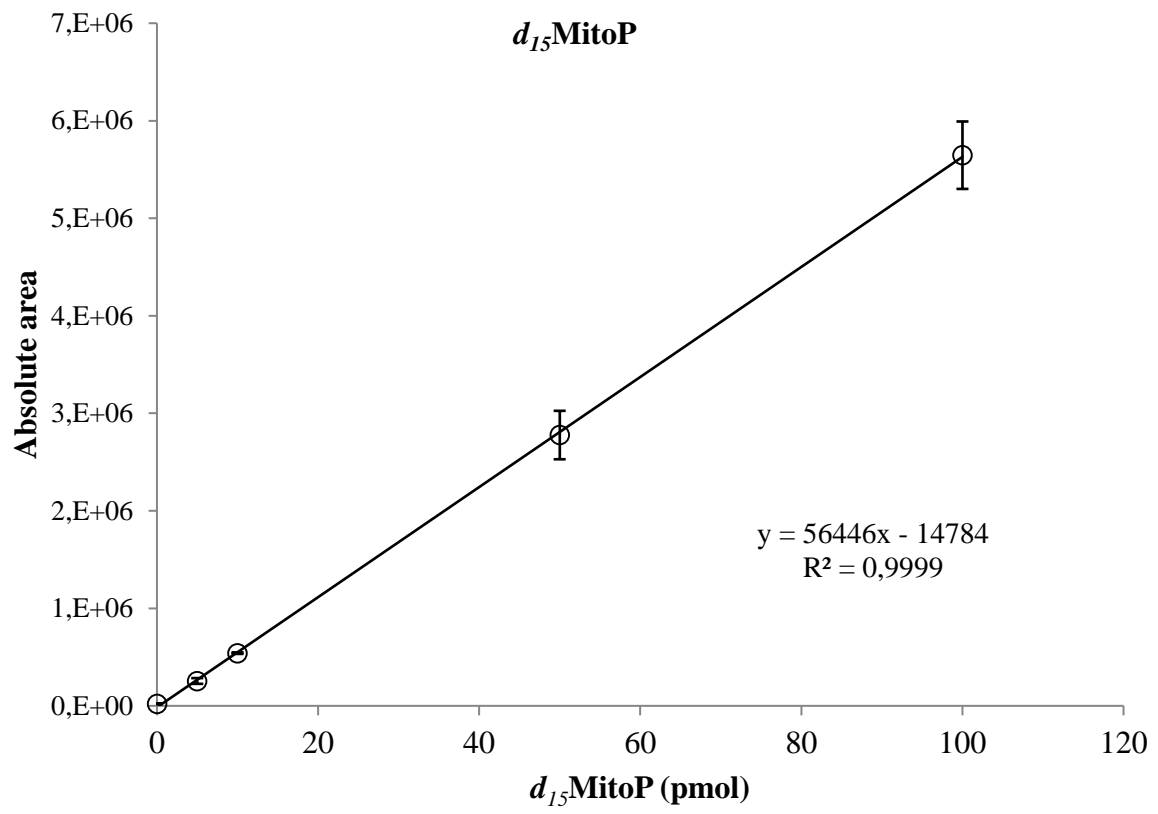
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**Figure S1:** Calibration curves for (A) MitoP, (B)  $d_{15}$ MitoP, (C) MitoB and (D)  $d_{15}$ MitoB detection by HPLC-MS. Each point is the mean  $\pm$  SE of duplicate measurements. Inserts show the data points lying near the origin of the graph. The calibration curves were generated from the standards that had an absolute area within the detection limits of the HPLC-MS, *i.e.* those standards with the lowest and highest probe concentrations were excluded from the calculation of the calibration curve.

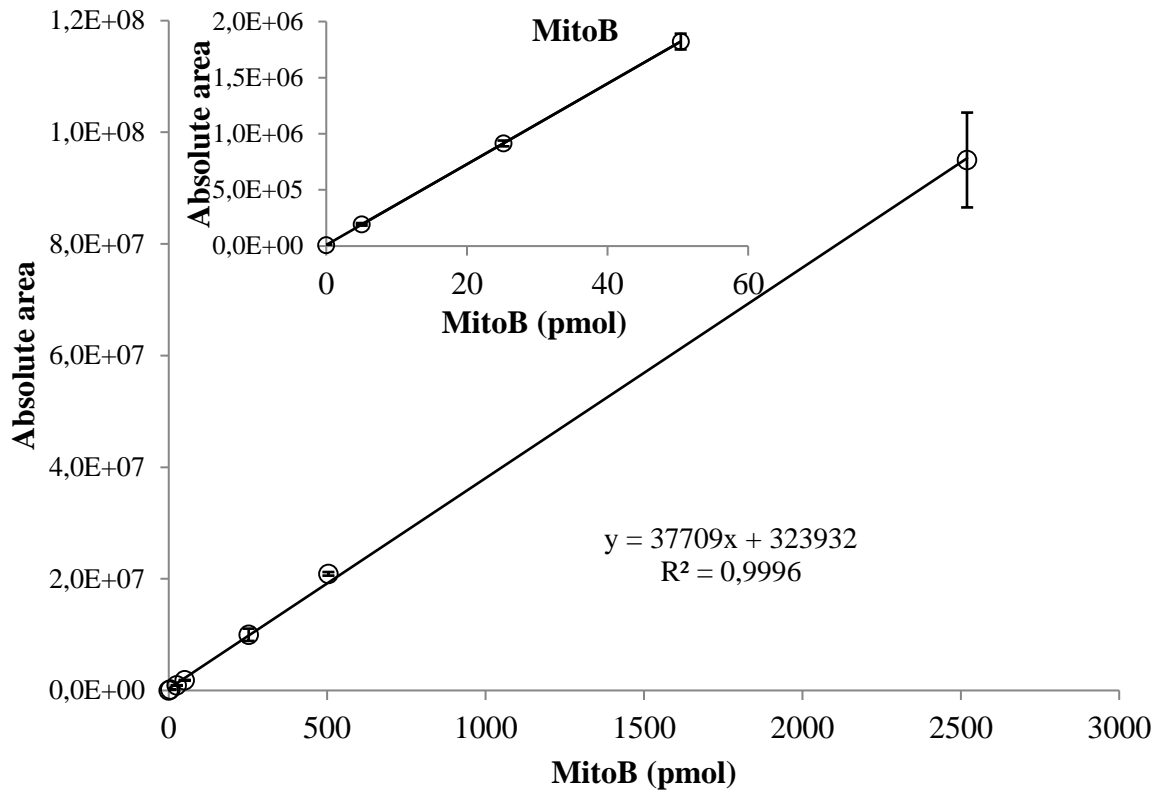




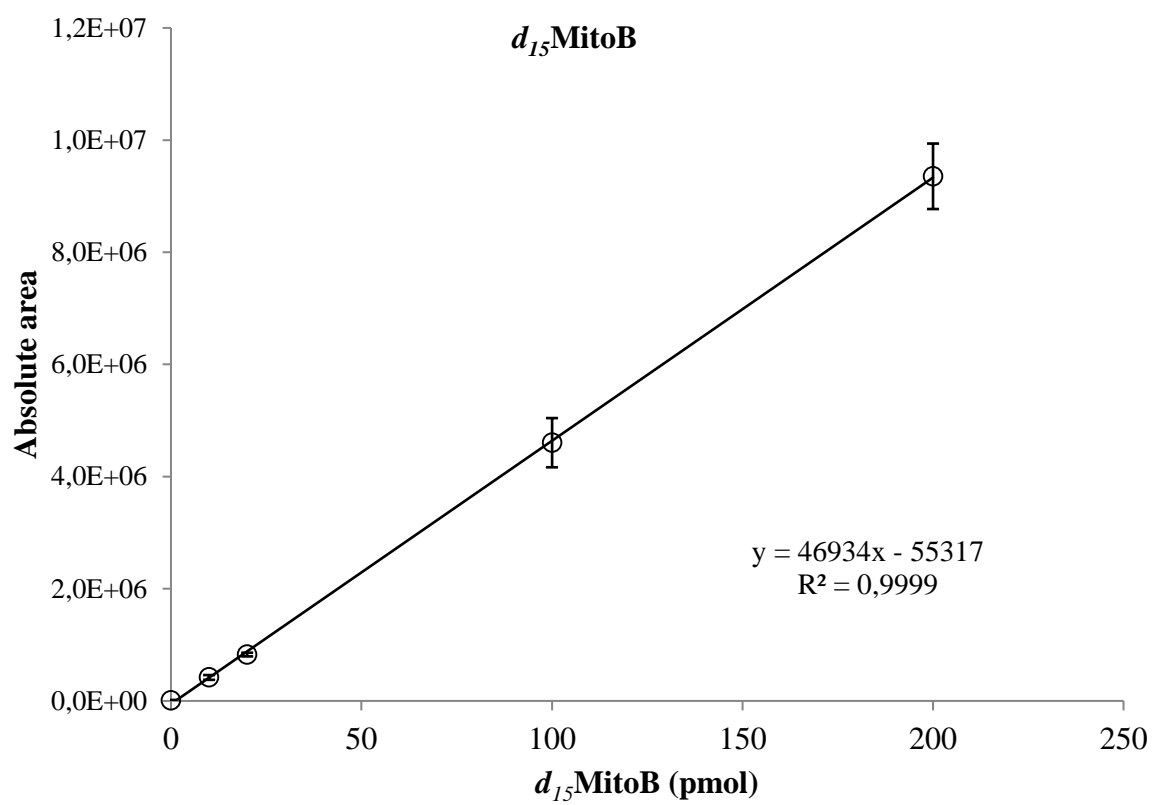
B.



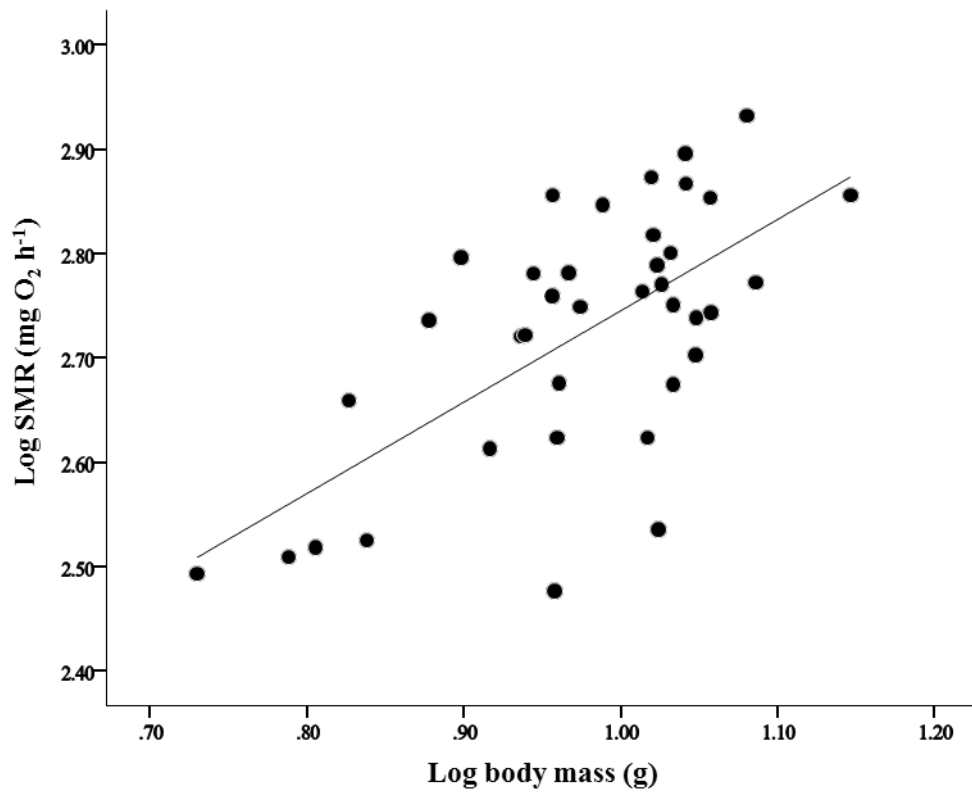
C.



D.



**Figure S2:** Relationship between standard metabolic rate (SMR) and body mass of brown trout *Salmo trutta*.  $\log_{10}$  SMR as a function of  $\log_{10}$  body mass where  $\log_{10}$  SMR =  $0.874 \pm 0.171 \log_{10}$  BodyMass +  $1.875 \pm 0.167$  ( $r^2 = 0.42$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ); residuals from this relationship (rSMR values) were used in subsequent analyses.



**Table S1:** Delivery sequence of the gradient elution in the HPLC-MS analysis, with a mobile phase containing acetonitrile (ACN) and 0.1% formic acid (FA) under a constant flow rate of 300  $\mu\text{L min}^{-1}$

Time (min)	FA (%)	ACN (%)
0.00-9.90	70.0	30.0
9.90-10.00	30.0	70.0
10.00-13.10	5.0	95.0
13.10-17.00	70.0	30.0

**Table S2:** Amount of the probes in the 10 standards used to generate MitoP,  $d_{15}$ MitoP, MitoB and  $d_{15}$ MitoB calibration curves.

Standard	ProbeP (pmol)	$d_{15}$ ProbeP (pmol)	ProbeB (pmol)	$d_{15}$ Probe B (pmol)
1	1313	100	5040	200
2	656.5	50	2520	100
3	131.3	10	504	20
4	65.65	5	252	10
5	13.13	1	50.4	2
6	6.565	0.5	25.2	1
7	1.313	0.1	5.04	0.2
8	0.6565	0.05	2.52	0.1
9	0.32825	0.025	1.26	0.05
10	0	0	0	0

**Table S3:** Descriptive statistics of the absolute areas obtained from the HPLC-MS runs for samples from the treated fish. Statistics are shown for the duplicate 1 and 2 of each of the 4 probes. Note that the sample size is reduced to 38 because one sample was excluded for showing an absolute area for  $d_{15}$ MitoP above the standard range, and another one for showing a value for MitoP below the standard range.

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SE
MitoP - 1	38	$3.60 \cdot 10^4$	$1.37 \cdot 10^7$	$1.10 \cdot 10^6$	$4.21 \cdot 10^5$
MitoP - 2	38	$4.24 \cdot 10^4$	$4.79 \cdot 10^6$	$5.76 \cdot 10^5$	$1.47 \cdot 10^5$
$d_{15}$ MitoP - 1	38	$2.73 \cdot 10^5$	$4.55 \cdot 10^6$	$1.52 \cdot 10^6$	$1.87 \cdot 10^5$
$d_{15}$ MitoP - 2	38	$4.72 \cdot 10^5$	$1.53 \cdot 10^6$	$8.23 \cdot 10^5$	$3.57 \cdot 10^4$
MitoB - 1	38	$1.23 \cdot 10^6$	$3.74 \cdot 10^7$	$1.22 \cdot 10^7$	$1.49 \cdot 10^6$
MitoB - 2	38	$1.14 \cdot 10^6$	$2.01 \cdot 10^7$	$7.12 \cdot 10^6$	$5.74 \cdot 10^5$
$d_{15}$ MitoB - 1	38	$4.30 \cdot 10^5$	$5.10 \cdot 10^6$	$2.32 \cdot 10^6$	$2.21 \cdot 10^5$
$d_{15}$ MitoB - 2	38	$7.88 \cdot 10^5$	$1.71 \cdot 10^6$	$1.30 \cdot 10^6$	$3.28 \cdot 10^4$