

1 **Guidelines for the reporting of methods for estimating metabolic rates using aquatic intermittent**
2 **closed respirometry**

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47 **SUMMARY STATEMENT**

48 We show that reporting of intermittent-closed respirometry methods in peer-reviewed articles has
49 been inconsistent and incomplete, and present the first guidelines for reporting intermittent-closed
50 respirometry methods to enhance study replicability.

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52 **ABSTRACT**

53 Interest in the measurement of metabolic rates is growing rapidly, due to the relevance of
54 metabolism in understanding organismal physiology, behaviour, evolution, and responses to
55 environmental change. The study of metabolism in aquatic organisms is experiencing an especially
56 pronounced expansion, with more researchers utilizing intermittent-closed respirometry as a
57 research tool than ever before. Despite this, there remain no published guidelines on the reporting
58 of methodological details when using intermittent-closed respirometry. Using a survey of the
59 existing literature, we show that this lack of recommendations has led to incomplete and
60 inconsistent reporting of methods for intermittent-closed respirometry over the last several
61 decades. We also provide the first guidelines for reporting such methods, in the form of a checklist
62 of details that are the minimum required for the interpretation, evaluation, and replication of
63 experiments using intermittent-closed respirometry. This should increase consistency of the
64 reporting of methods for studies that use this research technique. With the steep increase in studies
65 using intermittent-closed respirometry over the last several years, now is the ideal time to
66 standardise the reporting of methods so that data can be properly assessed by other scientists and
67 conservationists.

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95 **INTRODUCTION**

96 Estimating metabolic rates of animals has been a core element of research in comparative
97 physiology for decades (Kleiber, 1947; Rolfe and Brown, 1997). Metabolic rates have also been
98 studied in the context of physiological and behavioural ecology (Killen et al., 2013; Mathot et al.,
99 2019; Metcalfe et al., 2016), as well as in the examination of broad ecological phenomena across
100 levels of biological organisation (Brown et al., 2004; Hatton et al., 2019). The study of metabolic
101 rates has recently received even greater attention due to the need to understand plastic and
102 evolutionary responses to environmental change, particularly in aquatic ecosystems (Jutfelt et al.,
103 2018; Norin and Metcalfe, 2019; Pörtner et al., 2017). This increased attention has occurred
104 alongside technological advances in methods of respirometry, which measure rates of gas exchange
105 as a proxy for metabolic rate (Nelson, 2016). The rise of commercially available respirometry
106 components has further facilitated the estimation of metabolic rates from a variety of organisms.
107 These factors have been particularly consequential for respirometry on animals that breathe water
108 because, historically, this has been more difficult to conduct as compared to respirometry on air-
109 breathers. As such, there are more scientists using aquatic respirometry as a research tool than ever
110 before, with more than 60% of the papers in this field being generated in the last 10 years alone
111 (Figure 1).

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113 The most widely-accepted method for estimating metabolic rates of water-breathing organisms is
114 automated intermittent-closed respirometry (Steffensen, 1989; Svendsen et al., 2016). Although the
115 technique has mainly been developed on fishes, it is suitable for almost any water-breathing
116 organism and involves placing the animal in a respirometry chamber where it is exposed to periodic,
117 alternating, “closed” and “flush” phases. During the closed phase, the respirometer is effectively
118 sealed and there is a decline in oxygen concentration in the water due to oxygen uptake by the
119 animal, which can be used as a proxy for whole-animal metabolic rate (Nelson, 2016). Such closed
120 respirometry would, eventually, cause hypoxia and accumulation of waste products in the
121 respirometer, but this is avoided by the flush phase when the respirometer is flushed with clean,
122 aerated water. The alternation of these phases means that real-time rates of oxygen uptake can be
123 recorded in successive closed phases over extended periods, with animals left undisturbed. This can
124 provide an accurate picture of dynamic changes in metabolic rate over time, due to factors such as
125 initial handling stress, circadian rhythms, metabolic costs of digestion, among others (Jourdan-
126 Pineau et al., 2010; Steffensen, 1989). It can also reveal when the undisturbed animal is potentially
127 functioning at basal rates of metabolism (standard metabolic rate, SMR, for ectotherms) (Chabot et
128 al., 2016). This ability to track changes in metabolic rate in real time is a major improvement over
129 the technique of flow-through respirometry (Ultsch et al., 1980), which measures rates of oxygen
130 uptake from a continuous flow of water through a respirometer chamber, from the difference in
131 oxygen concentration at inflow and outflow. Changes in oxygen concentration at the outflow,
132 however, lag behind changes in metabolic activity of the fish due to wash-out effects, which can
133 confound estimates of metabolic rate (Steffensen, 1989). Intermittent-closed respirometry is,
134 therefore, the best available method to estimate metabolic rate in water-breathing animals, with a
135 wide range of applications.

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137 Despite its increasingly wide usage, there are no guidelines for reporting the methods used in
138 intermittent-closed respirometry. There are several guides to best practice for measuring and
139 analysing various types of metabolic rates (Chabot et al., 2016; Jutfelt et al., 2018; Norin and Clark,
140 2016; Steffensen, 1989; Svendsen et al., 2016), but methodological details can vary widely among
141 researchers. Equally important is that the *reporting* of methods also differs greatly across peer-
142 reviewed studies, with important details often not mentioned. A lack of methodological detail, or
143 inaccurate and vague descriptions, are problematic because they: (1) make it difficult for readers to
144 evaluate data reliability and judge interpretation of results; (2) can give a misleading impression of
145 what was actually done, and (3) hinder replication of the experiments. Notably, data on metabolic

146 rates are increasingly used in meta-analyses (Holtmann et al., 2017; Jerde et al., 2019; Killen et al.,
147 2016) so proper methodological documentation would be useful in understanding sources of
148 residual variation across studies. A standard set of guidelines for reporting methods in intermittent-
149 closed respirometry studies would make it easier for journal editors and reviewers to decide
150 whether a given study warrants publication in the first place. Finally, a list of important
151 methodological details would be extremely useful for students and researchers who are new to this
152 field of research and are using this technique for the first time. With the exponential increase in the
153 number of published studies using respirometry (Figure 1), it is the ideal time to establish and
154 institute standard guidelines for accurate methodological reporting.

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156 Focussing on studies with fishes, we present guidelines for reporting methods used in aquatic
157 intermittent-closed respirometry. We provide a checklist of details that should represent minimum
158 requirements for accurate reporting and evaluation of methods, and for experimental replication.
159 We also provide a quantitative analysis of previous reporting of methods among studies using
160 aquatic intermittent-closed respirometry in fishes. Our aim is to highlight the specific areas in which
161 reporting of methodological details can be improved and to provide an explicit list of details which
162 can be referenced when writing or evaluating research papers.

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164 **METHODS**

165 *Checklist of Essential Criteria*

166 We generated a list of 50 criteria that we deemed important for understanding, interpreting, and
167 replicating experiments using aquatic intermittent-closed respirometry (Table 1; Figure 2). While the
168 criteria are focussed on studies with fishes, most criteria could be applied to studies with any aquatic
169 organism. Criteria were divided into the following categories: (1) equipment and setup; (2)
170 measurement conditions; (3) details specific to the measurement of background oxygen uptake and
171 adjustments; (4) details specific to the measurement of “minimum” metabolic rates, including SMR
172 and routine metabolic rate (RMR); (5) details specific to the measurement of maximum metabolic
173 rate (MMR), and (6) data handling and analysis. We restricted our criteria to cover methods involved
174 in the most basic forms of aquatic intermittent-closed respirometry, namely, the measurement of
175 minimum and maximum metabolic rates. Methods unique to other applications, such as protocols
176 for measuring critical oxygen tensions (P_{crit}) are not covered here (Claireaux and Chabot, 2016;
177 Ultsch and Regan, 2019).

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179 *Literature Survey and Criteria Scoring*

180 We performed a survey of the literature to determine variation in the reporting of methods and the
181 extent to which various criteria are (or are not) reported. Using Web of Science, we used the topic
182 search term [fish AND ("standard metabolic rate" OR "resting metabolic rate" OR "routine metabolic
183 rate") AND "maxim* metabolic rate"] in January 2021. This survey was not meant to be exhaustive
184 but was meant to be representative of the methodological reporting across research using fish
185 intermittent-closed respirometry as a whole. This search returned 120 research articles, which were
186 then screened by reading titles and abstracts. Articles were excluded from further analysis if they
187 were review articles, meta-analyses, or any other study that did not estimate metabolic rates using
188 intermittent-closed respirometry. In addition, we excluded articles if they used flow-through
189 respirometry or closed respirometry. Finally, to increase consistency in the criteria scored across
190 studies, studies were only included in further analysis if they measured both SMR (or RMR) and
191 MMR. This led to 72 studies being assessed (Table S1).

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193 Each study was scored for whether they satisfied each criterion in the checklist. Studies were
194 awarded a point for a given criterion if they gave a clear, unambiguous description of that
195 methodological detail, without the need for reader assumptions or calculations. Importantly, scores
196 were not based on the quality of a methodology itself – they were simply based on whether a given
197 detail was provided. For example, if a paper stated that the respirometer was made of Swiss cheese,
198 the criterion “provide material of respirometer” (criterion 5; Table 1) would be considered satisfied
199 and a point would be awarded, without judgement of whether Swiss cheese is an appropriate
200 material for respirometer construction. Methodological details for specific criteria were considered
201 present if they were provided in the main article text, figures, tables, supplementary material, or in
202 references to previously published work. When there were references to multiple prior studies for a
203 given criterion, a point was not given if those prior sources provided inconsistent or contradictory
204 descriptions. In some cases, the absence of a specific criterion made it impossible to assess other
205 associated criteria, in which case a value of NA was assigned to criteria that were unable to be
206 scored, and those instances were not included in calculating the mean average score for that paper,
207 or for calculating the mean prevalence of that criteria across papers. While most studies were
208 evaluated by one scorer, eight studies were evaluated by two scorers each, ensuring consistency
209 across scorers and allowing refinement of criteria phrasing to minimise ambiguity. For each article,
210 we also recorded the title, first author, year of publication, and journal.

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212 *Statistical Analysis*

213 A generalised linear mixed model (GLMM) with a binomial distribution (logit link) was constructed to
214 examine factors affecting methods reporting across published papers. The score for each criterion
215 per paper (0 or 1) was used as the response variable, and criteria category, year, journal impact
216 factor, and all interactions among these variables were initially included as explanatory variables.
217 Paper ID (by title) and scorer were included as random effects. Non-significant interactions were
218 dropped sequentially and the model re-run. All analyses were conducted using R v. 4.0.3 (R
219 Development Core Team, 2020) using the function lmer in package lme4 (Bates et al., 2016).

220

221 **RESULTS**

222 Papers reported a mean of 54% of the listed criteria (Figure 3). While specific papers often scored
223 highly within a particular category, all papers missed several of the listed criteria across categories.
224 Even among criteria which were reported relatively frequently, there were key details that were
225 often not provided. For example, animal mass at the time respirometry was conducted (as opposed
226 to when the animals were brought into the lab) was not specifically mentioned in almost 40% of
227 studies. Similarly, 17% of studies were not explicit about the temperature used during respirometry,
228 and 51% did not mention how temperature was controlled. Almost 60% of studies did not mention
229 the lowest water oxygen concentration that fish were exposed to during respirometer closed-
230 phases.

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232 Criteria associated with the measurement of background respiration were the least frequently
233 reported (45%), while those concerning measurement of MMR were most frequently reported (76%,
234 GLMM, effect of category, $p < 0.0001$). The reporting of criteria has improved over time, since
235 publication of the first paper in our survey (published in 1993; Figure 4; GLMM, effect of year, $p =$
236 0.002). Reporting was not related to journal impact factor (2019 Clarivate Analytics).

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238 There was wide variation in reporting frequency of criteria within categories, with some specific
239 criteria being consistently under-reported (Table 1). Criteria relating to mixing circuit tubing (criteria
240 4, 6, and 12) were only mentioned in 8-13% of papers, and descriptions of probe calibration

241 (criterion 15) only appeared in 24% of papers. Few papers (20%) mentioned whether animals in
242 adjacent respirometers were able to see each other during measurements with multiple chambers
243 running simultaneously (criterion 23), and the total duration (i.e. in days) of all trials combined
244 within a study (criterion 25) was infrequently reported as well (22% of papers).

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246 **DISCUSSION**

247 We present a checklist of criteria that should be addressed when reporting the methods of
248 experiments using aquatic intermittent-closed respirometry. Our quantitative analysis shows that
249 reporting of methods has been relatively poor and inconsistent, including in our own published
250 articles. The lack of consistency across studies is undoubtedly due to the lack of any publicly
251 available guidelines for reporting the methodological details of intermittent-closed respirometry.
252 Given the rapidly increasing number of studies being published in this field, we suggest that
253 researchers use the checklist provided here when describing their methods, to prevent further
254 under-reporting of important elements. The use of reporting guidelines for methods, in the form of
255 checklists or flow-charts (Carp, 2012; Cowger et al., 2020; Michel et al., 2020), is widespread across
256 the biological sciences, and is long overdue in comparative physiology and especially respirometry.
257 Intermittent-closed respirometry is guaranteed to produce data, but the quality of that data is
258 completely dependent on a myriad of methodological details and decisions made throughout data
259 collection and analysis (Steffensen, 1989; Svendsen et al., 2016). Without describing these details
260 when reporting methods, it is not possible for readers or reviewers to judge or replicate results. A
261 clear list of important details will also be useful for planning experiments using intermittent-closed
262 respirometry, especially for researchers that are new to the field.

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264 In addressing specific methodological details, it is important for researchers to be as clear and
265 explicit as possible, to eliminate any chance of misinterpretation. In our survey, for example, articles
266 sometimes reported the body mass of the fish upon arrival at the lab or during holding conditions,
267 but not at the time of respirometry. Body size affects both minimum and maximum metabolic rates
268 (Jerde et al., 2019; Killen et al., 2016) and temporal variation in body mass may lead to inaccurate
269 metabolic rate estimation. Similarly, the temperature or photoperiod during holding conditions were
270 often given without explicit reference to conditions during respirometry, or how temperature
271 conditions were maintained. Metabolic rates of ectothermic animals are profoundly influenced by
272 temperature (Clarke and Johnston, 1999; Schulte, 2015) and photoperiod may also affect animal
273 oxygen uptake (Biswas and Takeuchi, 2002). Another problem is that articles often refer to multiple
274 prior studies for methodological details, but these references would contain inconsistent or
275 contradictory information. The use of inaccurate or vague phrasing can also cause confusion,
276 misunderstanding of what methods were actually performed and, potentially, the spread of
277 incorrect information and terminology. Overall, while the use of a checklist for methodological
278 details should improve the reporting of methods for intermittent-closed respirometry, it is ultimately
279 dependent upon researchers to use clear and unambiguous language when describing their
280 methods.

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282 Overall, criteria associated with background bacterial oxygen uptake were the most inconsistently
283 reported among studies. This is a critical oversight because the amount of bacterial respiration and
284 the exact way it is measured, or incorrectly accounting for rates of background oxygen uptake, can
285 greatly impact estimates of animal metabolic rates (Rodgers et al., 2016; Svendsen et al., 2016). A
286 large proportion of papers failed to describe how bacterial respiration was controlled (e.g. by
287 cleaning of respirometry chambers and setup), how it was measured and accounted for, or the
288 proportion of animal metabolism that it represented. In fact, more than a quarter of papers

289 surveyed did not mention whether any form of background bacterial respiration measurement was
290 performed. Without such details, it is extremely difficult to assess data validity. This is, therefore, a
291 methodological element that researchers must perform properly and report clearly.

292

293 There were several other criteria that were consistently underreported. For example, details
294 regarding the mixing circuit of respirometers were frequently neglected, despite this being a key
295 component of intermittent-closed respirometry (Rodgers et al., 2016; Svendsen et al., 2016). Nearly
296 40% of papers did not provide any mention of whether mixing was performed or how it was
297 accomplished (criterion 9). Proper mixing of the water in respirometers is critical to homogenise
298 oxygen concentrations throughout chambers and accurately measuring oxygen uptake is simply not
299 possible without effective mixing. Moreover, any tubing used in a mixing circuit needs to be as clean
300 as possible, as short as possible, and made of relatively gas impermeable material. Any respiration
301 from bacteria adhering to the surface, or gas exchange across the tubing, could have strong
302 confounding effects that need to be corrected for or avoided. Moreover, the volume of the mixing
303 circuit must be included in calculation of respirometer volume and therefore animal oxygen uptake
304 rate.

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306 Numerous criteria pertaining to conditions during measurement were reported infrequently.
307 Although many studies measure multiple animals simultaneously during respirometry, with each
308 animal within its own chamber, few studies mention whether the animals were visually shielded
309 from each other. This could have various impacts on activity and metabolic rates that could differ
310 among species, depending on their level of sociability or aggression (Killen et al., 2014; Nadler et al.,
311 2016; Ros et al., 2006). Few studies reported the total duration taken to measure all animals in a
312 study. This criterion may be especially important for studies with large sample sizes, leading to
313 overlap with breeding seasons or significant changes in mass of small, rapidly growing animals.
314 Another critical factor that was often not reported is the minimum level of oxygen concentration
315 that occurred during closed phases of the intermittent respirometry cycle. If oxygen depletion by the
316 animal actually causes hypoxia during closed phases, this may cause repeated reliance upon
317 anaerobic pathways to meet energy requirements of metabolism, which would then interfere with
318 estimates of metabolic rate using oxygen uptake as a proxy (Snyder et al., 2016). Additionally,
319 repeated hypoxia may elicit an endocrine stress response, or stimulate swimming activity, also
320 affecting metabolism and rates of oxygen uptake (Aboagye and Allen, 2014; Killen et al., 2012).

321

322 There are several criteria unique to the estimation of either SMR/RMR or MMR that are often not
323 reported. Regarding SMR/RMR, the total number of oxygen uptake measurements (i.e. number of
324 closed phases) used in the derivation of the metabolic rate estimate (criterion 35) was reported in
325 only 29% of studies. Methods for statistically estimating SMR, for example, including the use of
326 quantiles or frequency distributions, require a large number of repeated measures and so the total
327 number of slopes used in their derivation should be provided. Included within this are any slopes
328 that were disregarded during acclimation to the respirometer (criterion 33) or periods of increased
329 activity (criterion 37; including whether such periods were included in quantile- or frequency
330 distribution-based methods of calculating SMR). Although reporting for MMR was relatively good
331 when compared to the other criteria categories, there were still important details that were often
332 neglected. For example, when measuring oxygen uptake immediately after exhaustion, many studies
333 did not report whether the animal was exposed to air before placement in the chamber. The time
334 taken to initiate measurements of oxygen uptake (e.g. in seconds, after the cessation of exercise)
335 was also often not provided. This is important because data processing procedures can bias
336 estimates of MMR (Zhang et al., 2020), including the duration of the slope used to estimate MMR

337 and the specific method of determining the maximum rate of oxygen uptake during recovery after
338 exercise (criterion 49). Our survey revealed that both criteria were relatively underreported but,
339 given emerging awareness of their importance, it is vital that authors provide these details going
340 forward.

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342 While the reporting of methods for intermittent-closed respirometry has generally been
343 inconsistent, our analysis also indicates a steady improvement in reporting since the early 1990s. We
344 hope the development of guidelines and the availability of a reporting checklist will hasten this trend
345 towards systematically clear and accurate reporting of methods. As metabolic rates increasingly
346 become a focus for understanding the ability of animals to cope with environmental change, it is
347 more important than ever to ensure reliable and replicable data, particularly in cases where data
348 may be used to inform conservation efforts. The availability of a checklist of important
349 methodological details should also be useful to new researchers entering this rapidly developing
350 field.

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352 **COMPETING INTERESTS**

353 The authors declare no competing interests.

354

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362

363 **DATA AVAILABILITY**

364 Data are available along with this submission and will be uploaded to the Mendeley Data Repository.

365

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459 **TABLE 1.** Checklist of criteria that should be provided when reporting methods for aquatic
 460 intermittent-closed respirometry. Also shown is the prevalence of each criteria in the existing
 461 literature.

Number	Criterion and Category	Prevalence (% of papers)
EQUIPMENT		
1	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide body mass of animals at time of respirometry	61.1
2	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide volume of respirometer	94.4
3	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide volume of tubing in mixing circuit	8.5
4	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide ratio of animal body mass to volume of respirometer (plus associated tubing in mixing circuit)	15.3
5	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide material of respirometer (e.g. glass, acrylic, etc.)	54.2
6	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide material of tubing	12.7
7	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide type of oxygen probe and data recording	90.3
8	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide sampling frequency of water oxygen concentration	44.4
9	<input type="checkbox"/> Describe how chamber mixing was achieved	62.0
10	<input type="checkbox"/> Describe placement of oxygen probe (in recirculation circuit or directly in chamber)	56.9
11	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide flow rate during flushing and recirculation, or confirm that chamber returned to normoxia during flushing	28.2
12	<input type="checkbox"/> Declare whether volume of tubing in mixing circuit was included in calculations of oxygen uptake	12.7
13	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide timing of flush/closed cycles	87.5
14	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide wait (delay) time excluded from closed measurement cycles	68.1
15	<input type="checkbox"/> Describe frequency and method of probe calibration (for both 0 and 100% calibrations)	23.6
16	<input type="checkbox"/> Mention whether software temperature compensation was used during recording of water oxygen concentration	15.3
MEASUREMENT CONDITIONS		
17	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide temperature during respirometry	83.3
18	<input type="checkbox"/> Describe how temperature was controlled	48.6
19	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide photoperiod during respirometry	34.7
20	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide minimum water oxygen level or concentration reached during closed phases	40.3
21	<input type="checkbox"/> Describe whether chambers were visually shielded from external disturbance	47.9
22	<input type="checkbox"/> Describe how many fish were measured during a given respirometry trial	68.1
23	<input type="checkbox"/> If multiple animals were measured simultaneously, describe whether they were able to see each other during measurements	20.0
24	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide duration of animal fasting before placement in respirometer	84.7
25	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide duration of all trials combined (number of days to measure all animals in the study)	22.2
26	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide acclimation time to the laboratory before respirometry measurements	81.9
BACKGROUND RESPIRATION		
27	<input type="checkbox"/> Mention whether background respiration was measured and accounted for, and if so, how this was done	73.6

28	<input type="checkbox"/>	Specify method used to measure background respiration (e.g. parallel measures with empty respirometry chamber, measurements before and after for all chambers while empty, both)	66.2
29	<input type="checkbox"/>	If background respiration was measured at beginning and end, describe how many slopes and for what duration	32.8
30	<input type="checkbox"/>	Describe how were changes in background respiration modelled over time (e.g. linear, exponential, parallel measures)	42.0
31	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide level of background respiration (e.g. as a percentage of SMR)	23.6
32	<input type="checkbox"/>	Describe method and frequency of system cleaning (e.g. system bleached between each trial, UV lamp)	30.6

STANDARD OR ROUTINE METABOLIC RATE

33	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide acclimation time after transfer to chamber, or alternatively, time to reach beginning of metabolic rate measurements after introduction to chamber	65.3
34	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide duration over which metabolic rate was estimated	87.5
35	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide total number of slopes measured and used to derive metabolic rate (e.g. how much data were used to calculate quantiles)	29.2
36	<input type="checkbox"/>	Describe how metabolic rate was estimated (e.g. quantile method for SMR, average of lowest 10%, etc.)	92.8
37	<input type="checkbox"/>	Specify whether any outlier data were removed (e.g. data during acclimation, or slopes with poor r^2 [and if so what % of the data], data during periods of high activity [e.g. daytime])	25.0

MAXIMUM METABOLIC RATE

38	<input type="checkbox"/>	Specify method used (e.g. critical swimming speed respirometry, swim to exhaustion in swim tunnel, or chase to exhaustion)	98.6
39	<input type="checkbox"/>	Specify what value was taken as MMR (e.g. the highest rate of oxygen uptake value after transfer, average of highest values)	86.1
40	<input type="checkbox"/>	Specify when MMR was measured in relation to SMR (i.e. before or after)	87.1
41	<input type="checkbox"/>	Specify how absolute aerobic scope and/or factorial aerobic scope is calculated (i.e. using raw SMR and MMR, mass-adjusted SMR and MMR, or mass-adjusting aerobic scope itself)	71.2

IF MMR MEASURED POST-EXHAUSTION:

42	<input type="checkbox"/>	Describe length of activity challenge or chase (e.g. 2 min, until exhaustion, etc.)	92.1
43	<input type="checkbox"/>	Specify whether further air-exposure was added after exercise	56.5
44	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide time (in seconds) until transfer to chamber after exhaustion, or alternatively, time to start of first oxygen uptake recording	39.1

DATA HANDLING AND STATISTICS

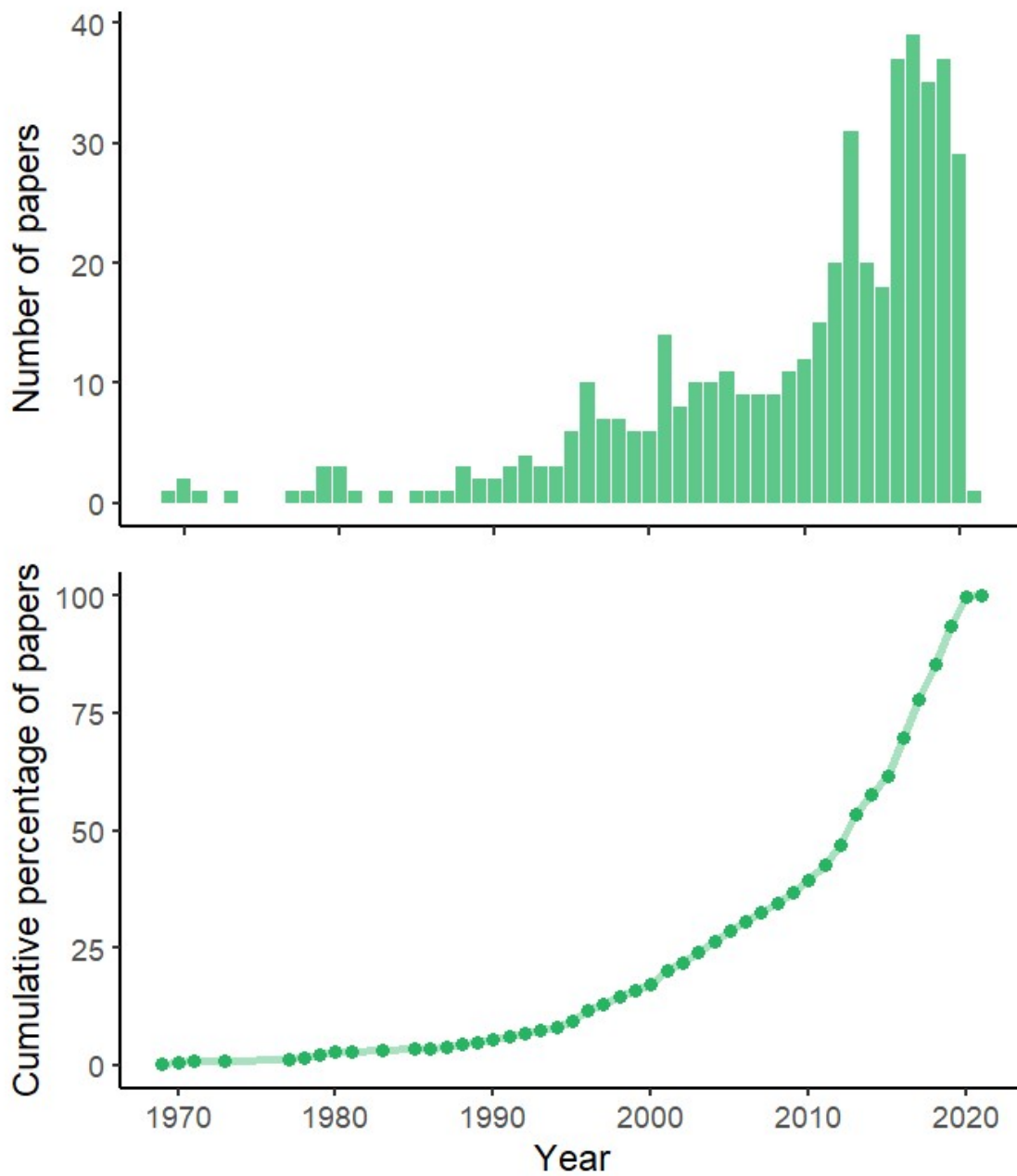
45	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide sample size	94.4
46	<input type="checkbox"/>	Describe how oxygen uptake rates were calculated (software or script, equation, units, etc.)	75.0
47	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide r^2 threshold for slopes used for SMR/RMR, or mean r^2	34.7
48	<input type="checkbox"/>	Duration of slopes used to calculate MMR (e.g. 1 min, 5 min, etc.)	49.3
49	<input type="checkbox"/>	Specify slope estimation method for MMR (e.g. rolling regression, sequential discrete time frames)	20.9
50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Describe any mass-corrections or adjustments	73.6

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468 **FIGURE 1.** Research in aquatic respirometry has increased steeply over the last several decades. Top
469 panel: the number of papers per year, returned by the topic search [aquatic AND respirometry]
470 (Web of Science, February 2021); bottom panel: the cumulative percentage of all papers by year.

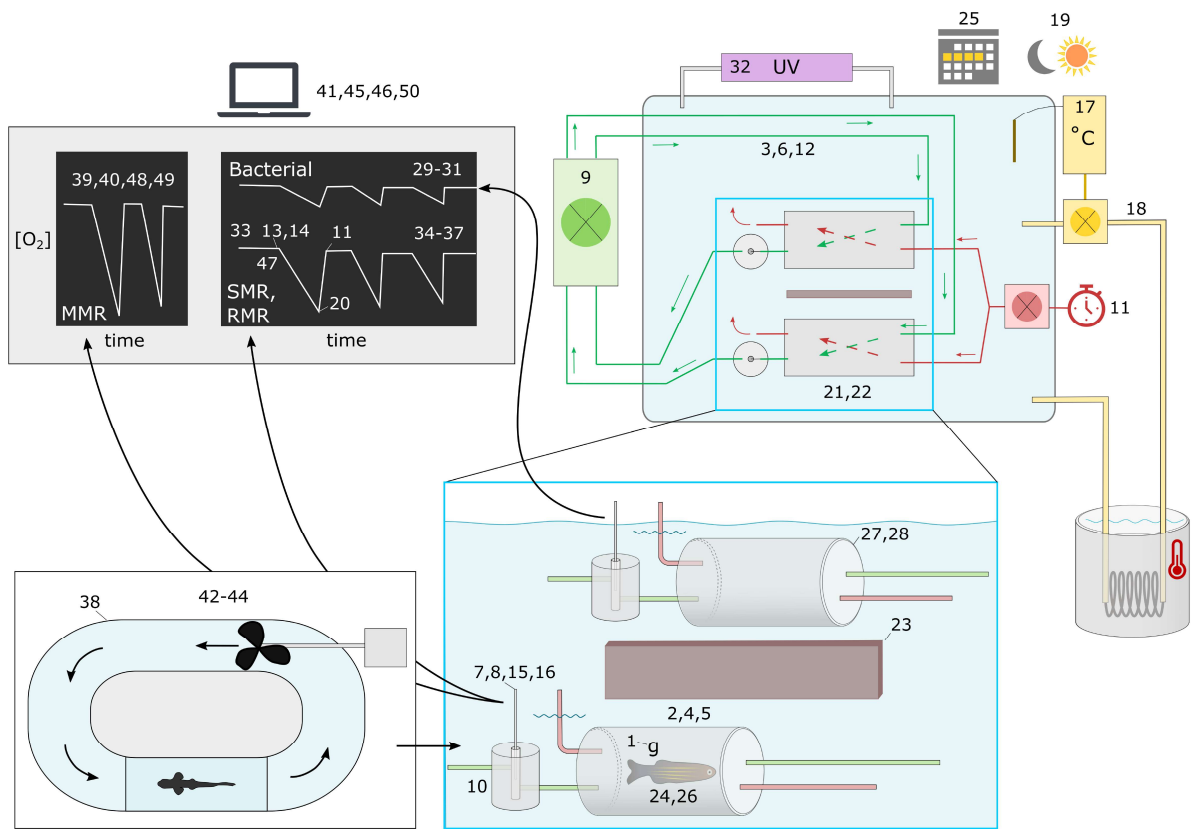
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478 **FIGURE 2.** Schematic of a typical intermittent-closed respirometry setup. Numbers correspond to the
 479 criteria listed in Table 1 and show the general location of each criteria within the setup. Red items
 480 are those used for periodically flushing the respirometer with clean, aerated water from the
 481 surrounding bath. Green represents the mixing circuit. Note that in this scheme, mixing is performed
 482 with a multichannel pump, but mixing can also be achieved with a single-channel pump or stir-bar,
 483 depending on the size and shape of the respirometers. Yellow represents elements associated with
 484 temperature control; here temperature is maintained using a thermostat that controls a pump to
 485 direct water through a heat exchanger within a heated reservoir whenever temperature within the
 486 bath drops below the setpoint. Refer to Svendsen et al. (2016) for more information on setup
 487 components and overall system functioning. RMR = routine metabolic rate; SMR = standard
 488 metabolic rate; MMR = maximum metabolic rate; UV = ultraviolet.

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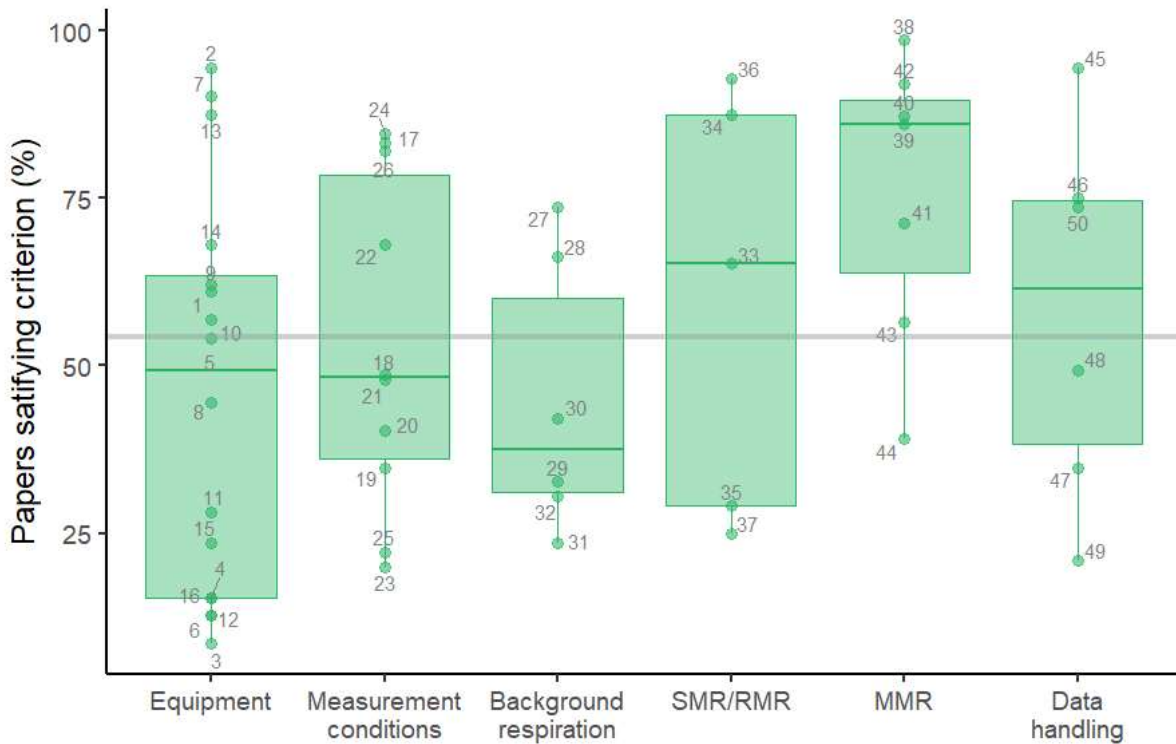
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500 **FIGURE 3.** The percentage of papers that referred to the specific criteria listed in Table 1. Each point
501 represents one criterion; grey numbers correspond to criteria numbering in Table 1. The grey line is
502 the overall average across papers. Boxplot lower and upper hinges represent the 25th and 75th
503 percentiles, respectively; the horizontal line within the box represents the median; the length of
504 whiskers represents the range data points between each hinge and 1.5× the difference between the
505 25th and 75th percentiles.

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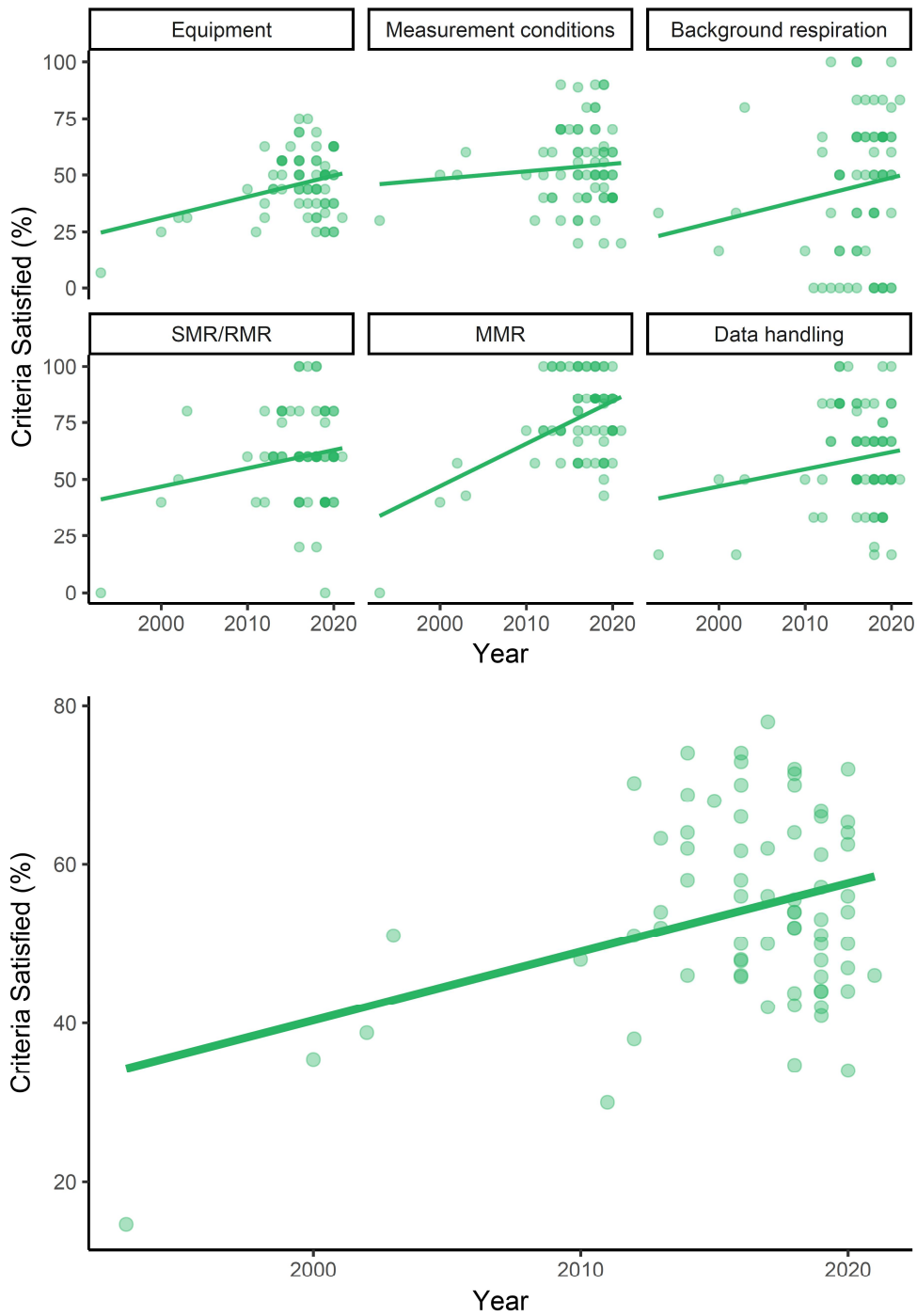
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520 **FIGURE 4.** The percentage of criteria listed in Table 1 that were satisfied in the surveyed papers.
521 Each point represents one paper; solids lines are linear regressions with publication year on the x-
522 axis. The top faceted panels show the criteria sub-divided according to category; the bottom panel
523 shows the overall percentage of criteria satisfied.