

**EFFECT OF SALINITY ON NITROGEN EXCRETION AND  
HAEMOLYMPH AMMONIA CONCENTRATION OF  
*PERNA VIRIDIS* (MOLLUSCA: BIVALVIA)**

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**ABSTRACT**

The rate of ammonia excretion and haemolymph ammonia concentration in juvenile and adult *Perna viridis* were studied during 5 days at 6 levels of salinity (25-35). The overall trend was that nitrogen excretion and accumulation in the water increased with decreasing salinity. The excretion and accumulation resulting from juvenile *P. viridis* was about an order of magnitude higher per unit weight compared to the adults. The effect of salinity on the ammonia concentration of haemolymph is not easy to interpret in the present study. However, the trend was that adults at low salinity (‰) had high concentrations of ammonia, especially after longer time at this salinity (120 hrs). Concentrations reached high levels after 48 hrs compared to measurements carried out 24 hrs earlier. With a few exceptions, the haemolymph concentrations dropped at all salinities after 72 hrs. After 96 hrs, the concentrations increased. Finally, the concentrations decreased in all mussels after 120 hrs.