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Impact of Bythotrephes Invasion on Zooplankton Communities in Acid-Damaged and Recovered Lakes on the Boreal Shield

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Abstract 24

Invasive species introductions into freshwater ecosystems have had a multitude of effects 25 on aquatic communities. Few studies, however, have directly compared the impact of an invader 26 on communities with contrasting structure. Historically high levels and subsequent reductions of 27 acid deposition have produced landscapes of lakes of varying acidity and zooplankton 28 community structure. We conducted a 30 day enclosure experiment in Killarney Provincial 29 Park, Ontario, Canada to test the effects of *Bythotrephes longimanus*, an invasive invertebrate 30 predator, on two contrasting zooplankton communities at different stages of recovery from 31 acidification; recovered and acid-damaged. Bythotrephes significantly decreased zooplankton 32 biomass and abundance in both communities, but had a greater negative effect on the abundance 33 of zooplankton in the recovered community. Bythotrephes reduced species diversity of the 34 recovered zooplankton community but not of the acid-damaged community. Species richness of 35 both community types was unaffected by *Bythotrephes* predation. The effect of *Bythotrephes* on 36 small cladocerans, a preferred prey type, differed between the community types and appeared 37 related to density-dependent predation by *Bythotrephes*. Both community- and species-level 38 results suggest that recovered and acid-damaged zooplankton assemblages may be negatively 39 40 affected by an invasion of *Bythotrephes*, but that the specific response is dependent on the original community structure. 41

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Key words: crustacean zooplankton, boreal lakes, Canadian Shield, recovery from acidification, 43 invasive species 44

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Introduction 46

The invasion of non-indigenous species into freshwater ecosystems has altered food webs 47 worldwide, severely affecting ecosystem processes, destroying habitats, and driving native 48 species to local extinction (Spencer et al. 1991; Ricciardi and Rasmussen 1998). In the next 49 century, biodiversity scenarios predict that invasive species will be the single most important 50 driver of change in aquatic ecosystems (Sala et al. 2000). Case studies of species introductions 51 into the Laurentian Great Lakes make it clear that invasive species present an imminent threat to 52 freshwater resources (Vanderploeg et al. 2002). Bythotrephes longimanus (Cercopagidae), until 53 recently called *B. cederstroemi* (Berg et al. 2002), is a large predatory zooplankter that invaded 54 the Great Lakes in the mid-1980s from Eurasia (Lehman 1987). It subsequently spread into 55 inland lakes in Canada and the United States in the 1990s (Yan et al. 1992), expanding its range 56 into at least 55 Ontario lakes (F. MacDonald, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, 4601 57 Guthrie Drive, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8L5, personal communication) and several lakes in 58 northern Minnesota (Forman and Whiteside 2000) and Upper Michigan (Jarnagin et al. 2000). 59 In North America, invasions of *Bythotrephes* have resulted in various responses of 60 zooplankton communities. A survey of 30 Canadian Shield lakes with and without the invader 61 found significantly lower biomass and species richness of zooplankton in single, mid-summer 62 samples taken from lakes containing *Bythotrephes* (Boudreau and Yan 2003). In Harp Lake, a 63 small inland lake in Ontario, the invasion of *Bythotrephes* caused a decrease in crustacean 64 zooplankton species richness and a size shift from small- to large-bodied zooplankton, owing to 65 the decline and disappearance of small species (Yan et al. 2001). However, other studies have 66 suggested that these responses may not be universal. Zooplankton samples from Lake Michigan 67 and laboratory feeding experiments have indicated that *Bythotrephes* may have negative effects 68

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69 on large-bodied zooplankton, including several species of *Daphnia* (Lehman and Cáceres 1993; Schulz and Yurista 1999). Taken together, these studies suggest that the effect of *Bythotrephes* 70 on zooplankton communities may be dependent on the structure of the initial community that is 71 invaded. 72

Human activities have led to innumerable changes in aquatic environments (Schindler 73 1998a), and thus, created a mosaic of different aquatic communities across the landscape. One 74 example of this is the large-scale acidification of lakes and their watersheds, and subsequent loss 75 of biodiversity, in the area around Sudbury, Ontario (Beamish and Harvey 1972). Reductions in 76 $SO₂$ emissions from Sudbury smelters have led to improvements in lake pH and biological 77 recovery of some aquatic communities (Gunn and Keller 1990; Holt and Yan 2003), though 78 recovery of zooplankton in many lakes is slow and not uniform across the landscape (Keller et 79 80 al. 2002). Although recovery endpoints are difficult to establish because historic, predisturbance data are rarely available, the recovery status of a community is often compared with 81 that of more pristine natural communities in similar biogeographical settings (see Yan et al. 82 1996b for description of reference lake approach). Many of the lakes recovering from 83 acidification are extremely clear due to thin soils, exposed bedrock, and small catchment areas, 84 resulting in low dissolved organic carbon (DOC) inputs (Gunn et al. 2001). These clear lakes are 85 especially vulnerable to invasion by *Bythotrephes* (MacIsaac et al. 2000). Although 86 Bythotrephes tends to occupy circumneutral lakes, it is tolerant of a wide range of pH 87 (Grigorovich et al. 1998) and is currently spreading into lakes that were historically acidified (A. 88 Strecker, personal observation). It is uncertain what impact *Bythotrephes* will have on lakes in 89 different stages of recovery and therefore, with different zooplankton community structure. 90

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91 We tested the effects of *Bythotrephes* on two ecologically disparate zooplankton communities at different stages of recovery from historic acidification (recovered vs acid-92 damaged) using a field enclosure experiment. Specifically, our objectives were to: 1) examine 93 94 community- and species-level responses of zooplankton to an invasion of *Bythotrephes*; and 2) determine if the responses were dependent on the recovery status of the community. We 95 hypothesized that *Bythotrephes* would: 1) cause declines in all community metrics and prey 96 selectively on small cladocerans (Lehman and Cáceres 1993; Yan et al. 2001; Boudreau and Yan 97 2003); and 2) have a greater negative effect on the zooplankton in the acid-damaged community 98 type because it has a lower species richness than the recovered community and therefore, fewer 99 species to compensate for those preved upon by *Bythotrephes* (McNaughton 1977; Naeem and Li 100 1997). 101

Methods 102

Study site and experimental design 103

Experiments were conducted in Kakakise Lake (46°03' N, 81°03' W; Fig. 1), located in 104 Killarney Provincial Park, situated 40-60 km southwest of metal smelters in Sudbury, Ontario. 105 Due to the large amounts of sulphur deposition received from Canada and the USA, this was one 106 of the first regions to be affected by atmospheric pollution (Beamish and Harvey 1972). While 107 many lakes are approaching their historical pre-acidification pH, some of the highly acidified 108 lakes located on orthoquartzite ridges have shown little improvement in pH (Keller et al. 2003). 109 Kakakise Lake is a relatively small (113 ha), mesotrophic boreal lake (Table 1) that was 110 historically acidified to pH 5.6 (Sprules 1975), but has now chemically recovered to levels 111 consistent with diatom-inferred pre-industrial pH (Keller et al. 2003). 112

113 A two-factor enclosure experiment was conducted in Kakakise Lake during July and August 2002 to test for the effect of *Bythotrephes* on zooplankton communities at different 114 stages of recovery from acidification. The effects of acidification on zooplankton communities 115 in lakes have been well-documented. In general, acidified lakes have low species richness and 116 are dominated by a few acid-tolerant species, while neutral or buffered lakes have more diverse 117 assemblages (Sprules 1975). Our experimental treatments were designed to reflect these 118 differences in community structure. The experiment consisted of two treatments, each with two 119 levels: *Bythotrephes* (*Bythotrephes*, no *Bythotrephes*) and zooplankton community (recovered, 120 acid-damaged). The four treatment combinations were each replicated three times, for a total of 121 12 enclosures. However, one replicate of the recovered, no Bythotrephes treatment was 122 discarded after a northern pike (*Esox lucieus*) invaded the enclosure. In each zooplankton 123 124 community treatment (recovered vs. acid-damaged), the enclosures with no *Bythotrephes* present are the controls for that community. 125

Due to the sensitive nature of conducting experiments with invasive species, Kakakise 126 Lake was chosen as the location for the experiment because previous data indicated that the lake 127 had been invaded by *Bythotrephes* prior to 1997 (B. Keller, Cooperative Freshwater Ecology 128 Unit, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario, P3E 2C6, unpublished data). In July 2002, 129 *Bythotrephes* was present in the lake in low densities; ≤ 0.1 ind m³ (A. Strecker, unpublished 130 data). 131

Bell Lake (46°08' N, 81°26' W; Fig. 1) and Ruth Roy Lake (46°05' N, 81°14' W; Fig. 1) 132 were chosen as the recovered and acid-damaged zooplankton source lakes, respectively. These 133 lakes have contrasting zooplankton assemblages as a result of their different acidification 134 135 histories and lake geologies. The Bell Lake zooplankton community was typical of recovered

136 zooplankton assemblages that are species-rich and contain both acid-tolerant and acid-sensitive species (Holt and Yan 2003). Ruth Roy is typical of other acid-damaged communities with low 137 species richness and dominance by a few acid-tolerant species; 77% of the zooplankton biomass 138 was contributed by two acid-tolerant species (Leptodiaptomus minutus and Diaphanosoma 139 birgei). A correspondence analysis (CA) of 21 reference lakes from the Dorset, Ontario region, 140 compared with the two study lakes confirmed their recovery status (A. Strecker, unpublished 141

data). 142

Clear plastic cylindrical enclosures (1 m diameter, total volume 6830 L; Filmtech 143 Plastics, 125 East Dr., Brampton, Ontario L6T 1B5) were suspended between the cross-bars of 144 three 4.9 m long floating wooden frames. The top of the enclosures were 0.3 m above the water 145 level to prevent the immigration of new species and extended down to a depth (approx. 8.7 m) 146 that was just below the thermocline. The enclosures were covered with mesh (approx. 5 mm) to 147 prevent aerial zooplankton colonization by macroinvertebrate and bird vectors, and were closed 148 at the bottom. Frames were oriented in a north-south direction so that all enclosures received 149 comparable light. 150

Water from Kakakise Lake was pumped from the central region of the euphotic zone into 151 the enclosures and filtered through a 50 µm mesh to remove all zooplankton. Zooplankton were 152 collected first from Bell Lake and the following day from Ruth Roy Lake with an 80 µm mesh 153 net and added to the enclosures in Kakakise Lake at ambient lake densities, filtering lake water at 154 a volume equal to the volume of enclosure. Samples collected with a 0.5 m diameter, 250 µm 155 mesh net in June and July 2002 verified the absence of *Bythotrephes* from the zooplankton 156 source lakes. Because the concentration of *Bythotrephes* was low in Kakakise Lake, 157 *Bythotrephes* for the experiment were collected from another invaded lake, Ahmic Lake (45°37' 158

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N, 79°42′ W). Ahmic Lake is circumneutral ($pH = 6.58$), and has calcium and DOC 159 concentrations that are similar to values in Kakakise Lake (Boudreau 2002). Bythotrephes were 160 collected using a 0.5 m diameter, 400 μm mesh net. During transport to Kakakise Lake, samples 161 were kept cool and held at low densities in opaque 20 L carboys surrounded by icepacks. On the 162 same day, live *Bythotrephes* were added to each enclosure at a density (10 ind m³) comparable 163 to mid-summer population maxima that have been reported in an early invasion year in Harp 164 Lake, Ontario (Yan et al. 2001). 165

Sampling protocol and analyses 166

Enclosures were sampled once a week for a period of four weeks. Zooplankton 167 abundance and composition, temperature, oxygen concentration, and total chlorophyll a 168 concentrations were estimated every week. Conductivity and pH were measured on Weeks 0, 2 169 170 and 4, and total phosphorus and edible chlorophyll $a \leq 30 \,\mu m$) were measured on Weeks 0 and 4. Zooplankton samples were obtained by taking two 8 m hauls with a 0.15 m diameter plankton 171 net (80 µm mesh size). The combined hauls represented approx. 3.4% of the volume of the 172 173 enclosure. Zooplankton were preserved in 4% sugared and buffered formalin.

Temperature and dissolved oxygen data were measured at 1 m intervals using a YSI 174 Model 95 dissolved oxygen and temperature meter (YSI Incorporated, Yellow Springs, Ohio). 175 Water samples for chemistry and chlorophyll a were obtained using an 8 m composite tube 176 sampler with a diameter of 16 mm. A 1.0 L subsample was filtered through PallTM Ultipor glass 177 fiber filters (1.2 um pore size) which were then frozen and kept in darkness for chlorophyll a 178 analysis. Edible chlorophyll *a* was sampled in the same manner, except that it was filtered 179 through 30 μ m mesh prior to its concentration onto a glass fiber filter. Chlorophyll a samples 180 181 were extracted in methanol for 24 hours before fluorometric analysis (Welschmeyer 1994) using

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182 the TD 700 Fluorometer (Turner Designs, Sunnyvale, California). Total phosphorus was analyzed following Ontario Ministry of the Environment protocols (Ontario Ministry of the 183 Environment 1983). Conductivity was measured with a YSI Model 32 conductance meter (YSI 184 Incorporated, Yellow Springs, Ohio) and pH with a PHM 80 portable pH meter (Radiometer 185 A/S, Copenhagen, Denmark). 186

During our routine zooplankton sampling, we infrequently encountered *Bythotrephes* in 187 the samples because we were sampling with a small diameter net. When we collected them, they 188 were enumerated and returned to the enclosure live. We did not want to risk damaging the 189 Bythotrephes in our experimental treatments and therefore did not attempt to quantitatively 190 sample them throughout the experiment. Instead, *Bythotrephes* was sampled with a 250 µm 191 mesh net (0.5 m diameter) on the last day of the experiment. Samples were preserved in 4% 192 193 sugared and buffered formalin until enumeration.

Zooplankton samples were enumerated using a protocol designed to target mature 194 individuals, as well as rare species (Girard and Reid 1990). Samples were subsampled using a 195 196 Folsom plankton splitter, and a total of at least 250 individuals were enumerated, such that no more than 50 individuals were counted for the dominant taxa, no more than 50 copepodids per 197 order were counted, and no more than 30 nauplii per order were counted. Zooplankton were 198 identified and counted on a Leica MZ 12.5 dissecting microscope and individuals were measured 199 using the semi-automated zooplankton counting system ZEBRA2 (Allen et al. 1994). 200

Taxonomic keys that were used included Hebert (1995) for *Daphnia*, Smith and 201 Fernando (1978) for copepods, Dodson and Frey (1991) for cladocerans, Taylor et al. (2002) for 202 Bosminidae, and Smith (2001) for general zooplankton identification. The taxa Bosmina 203

204 *(Bosmina)* and *Alona* were only identified to subgenera and genera, respectively, due to taxonomic difficulties in distinguishing species. 205

Statistical analyses 206

This experiment was designed to test the impacts of *Bythotrephes* on an acid-damaged 207 and recovering lake zooplankton community. By design, there were initial differences between 208 the two community types, i.e. the acid-damaged community had lower species richness and 209 diversity than the recovered community. However, initial differences between communities can 210 confound the interpretation of univariate statistics. In instances of significantly different starting 211 communities, the Time \times *Bythotrephes* interaction and Time \times Recovery \times *Bythotrephes* 212

interaction statistic were used to assess the effects of *Bythotrephes*. 213

A multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) was used to test the effects of 214 *Bythotrephes* and community recovery on zooplankton functional group abundance from Weeks 215 1-4, excluding Day 0, the first sampling date. We defined functional groups by taxonomic 216 groupings (calanoid and cyclopoid copepods), and further subdivided by size differences (small 217 vs large cladocerans) and habitat preferences of cladocerans (littoral vs pelagic) (Smith 2001). 218 Assumptions of normality were tested using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov goodness-of-fit test and 219 the Shapiro-Wilks *W*-statistic, homoscedasticity using Levene's test, and equal covariance using 220 Box's M-test. Functional group abundances were $log(x+1)$ -transformed to improve unequal 221 variance and non-normal treatments; however, some groups still violated these assumptions. 222 MANOVA is considered to be robust to violations of these assumptions, especially when using 223 the more robust Pillai trace method (Zar 1999). 224 Zooplankton responses to experimental treatments, including community biomass, 225

226 abundance, species richness, Shannon-Wiener species diversity (Zar 1999), functional group

227 abundance, and individual species abundances were tested with a two-factor repeated measures analysis of variance (RM-ANOVA) for Weeks 1-4. Total chlorophyll a , edible chlorophyll a , 228 and water chemistry responses were tested with a two-factor RM-ANOVA on all dates, as the 229 first chlorophyll *a* samples were taken three days after treatments were established. Two-factor 230 ANOVAs were also used to test for differences among community metrics at the beginning of 231 the experiment. All metrics were tested for normality and homoscedasticity, and sphericity was 232 tested using the less conservative Huynh-Feldt adjusted p -value, as in this type of experiment, it 233 is of greater importance to reduce the probability of a Type II error (Zar 1999). Total 234 zooplankton biomass and edible chlorophyll a were $log(x+1)$ -transformed to equalize variance. 235 Some non-normal treatments remained, however, since the analysis of variance test is robust to 236 departures from normality and equal variance (Zar 1999), the parametric version of the test was 237 used. 238

Results 239

Environmental conditions 240

There was no difference in water chemistry samples for pH (*Bythotrephes F_{1.7}* = 1.034, *p* 241 = 0.343; Recovery $F_{1,7}$ = 4.090, p = 0.083), total phosphorus (*Bythotrephes F_{1.7}* = 1.594, p = 242 0.247; Recovery $F_{1,7} = 3.237$, $p = 0.115$), and conductivity (*Bythotrephes F_{1,7} = 0.359*, $p = 0.568$; 243 Recovery $F_{1,7}$ = 0.730; $p = 0.421$) (Table 2). Total phosphorus tended to be variable within 244 treatments, likely due to the low numbers of replicates. As well, there was one particularly high 245 total phosphorus value, which suggests that the sample may have been contaminated by an 246 organism which would increase phosphorus levels (B. Clark, Ontario Ministry of the 247 Environment, P.O. Box 39, Dorset, Ontario P0A 1E0, personal communication). There was no 248 difference between the ambient lake and enclosure values for temperature and O_2 indicating that 249

250 they efficiently tracked the thermal and oxygenic regimes of the lake. There was also no effect of treatment on temperature (*Bythotrephes F_{1.7}* = 1.594, *p* = 0.939; Recovery $F_{1.7}$ = 0.627, *p* = 251 0.454) or O₂ (*Bythotrephes F_{1.7}* = 3.485, *p* = 0.104; Recovery *F_{1.7}* = 2.322, *p* = 0.171) of the 252 enclosures (Table 2). 253

Average concentrations of total chlorophyll a in the *Bythotrephes* treatment enclosures 254 increased by 17% over concentrations in no *Bythotrephes* enclosures from Week 0 to 4 ($F_{1,7}$ = 255 6.982, $p = 0.033$; Fig. 2). Edible chlorophyll *a* also increased in response to *Bythotrephes* (Time 256 \times *Bythotrephes:* $F_{1,7}$ = 4.031, p = 0.085), such that concentrations were 32% higher in 257 *Bythotrephes* treatments by the end of the experiment, although this increase was primarily 258 observed in the recovered community. Although total chlorophyll a was slightly higher in the 259 acid-damaged enclosures on our first sampling date $(F_{1,7} = 5.977, p = 0.044)$, it declined 260 throughout the remainder of the experiment, and was 25% lower $(F_{1,7} = 12.913, p = 0.009)$ than 261 the recovered enclosures from Week 1 to 4. Edible chlorophyll a , which had similar 262 concentrations on our first sampling date, was also lower in the acid-damaged community on 263 Week 3 ($F_{1,7}$ = 9.036, p = 0.020, effect size = 15%). 264

Zooplankton community responses to Bythotrephes 265

Total zooplankton biomass and abundance were both significantly decreased by the 266 addition of *Bythotrephes* (Table 3, Fig. 3). Our experimental design resulted in differences in 267 initial biomass (*Bythotrephes F_{1.7}* = 7.846, *p* = 0.026; Recovery $F_{1.7}$ = 17.439, *p* = 0.004), 268 richness (Recovery $F_{1,7}$ = 54.716, p < 0.001; Recovery × *Bythotrephes F*_{1.7} = 9.569, p = 0.017), 269 and Shannon-Wiener diversity (Recovery $F_{1,7}$ = 76.011, p < 0.001). Therefore, the Time \times 270 Bythotrephes interaction statistic was used. The effect of Bythotrephes on community biomass 271 272 became more pronounced over time, such that biomass in the *Bythotrephes* treatment declined by

273 $>$ 50% in both acid-damaged and recovered enclosures at the conclusion of the experiment.

Species richness was not affected by the *Bythotrephes* treatment, but diversity increased through 274

time in *Bythotrephes* treatments (Time \times *Bythotrephes* interaction, Table 3, Fig. 3). Individual 275 ANOVAs on functional groups revealed significant negative effects of *Bythotrephes* on biomass 276 of calanoid copepods (*Bythotrephes F_{1.7}* = 6.259, *p* = 0.041) and small cladocerans (*Bythotrephes*) 277

 $F_{1,7}$ = 16.779, $p = 0.005$). 278

Zooplankton species responses to Bythotrephes 279

RM-ANOVA revealed significant effects of *Bythotrephes* on individual species (Table 4, 280

Fig. 4). *Bythotrephes* significantly increased average *Holopedium glacialis* concentration by 89 281

ind \cdot m⁻³ and average cyclopoid copepodid concentration by 21 ind \cdot m⁻³, from Week 1 to 4. 282

Average abundances of L. minutus declined by 53 ind \cdot m³ in *Bythotrephes* treatments throughout 283

the experiment. *Bythotrephes* had a negative effect over time (Time \times *Bythotrephes* interaction) 284

on *Eubosmina longispina*, *Bosmina (Bosmina)* spp., and calanoid copepodids, where average 285

concentrations were reduced by $>$ 300, 173, and 115 ind m⁻³, respectively in *Bythotrephes* 286

treatments compared to no *Bythotrephes* treatments from Week 1 to 4. 287

Recovered vs acid-damaged zooplankton responses to Bythotrephes 288

MANOVA showed a significant interaction between recovery and *Bythotrephes* (Pillai $=$ 289 0.948, $F = 11.028$, $p = 0.038$; Fig. 5), suggesting that *Bythotrephes* had a different effect on some 290 291 functional groups, depending on whether or not they were in a recovered community. For example, average cyclopoid copepod abundance increased by 9 ind \cdot m⁻³ in the *Bythotrephes* 292 treatment in the acid-damaged community, but declined by 12 ind m^3 in the recovered 293 community on Weeks 1 to 4 (Fig. 4). The addition of *Bythotrephes* had a greater negative 294 impact on the recovered community than the acid-damaged community. Throughout the 295

296 experiment, *Bythotrephes* caused a 32% decline in the average total zooplankton abundance of the recovered community, but only an 8% decline in acid-damaged average total zooplankton 297 abundance (Time \times Recovery \times *Bythotrephes* interaction; Fig. 3). There was also an interaction 298 between recovery and *Bythotrephes* on species diversity, such that *Bythotrephes* had a negative 299 effect on diversity in the recovered treatment, but increased diversity in the acid-damaged 300 community. 301

There was a significant interaction between *Bythotrephes* and recovery on abundances of 302 E. longispina and cyclopoid copepodids (Fig. 4). Averaged over Week 1 to 4, these taxa 303 declined in abundance by 90 ind $m³$ (*E. longispina*) and 31 ind $m³$ (cyclopoid copepodids) in 304 the presence of *Bythotrephes* in the recovered treatment, but increased their abundances in the 305 acid-damaged community by 79 ind \cdot m⁻³ and 32 ind \cdot m⁻³, respectively. *Mesocyclops edax* 306 concentration also declined by 14 ind m^3 in the recovered treatment, but increased by 8 ind m^3 307 in the acid-damaged treatment, although it was not statistically significant. 308

Bythotrephes 309

We were able to detect *Bythotrephes* at low abundances $(< 2$ individuals per enclosure) 310 throughout the experiment in four of the six invaded enclosures, using the 15 cm diameter net 311 during routine zooplankton sampling. At the conclusion of the experiment, we suspect that 312 Bythotrephes abundances had declined because we were only able to retrieve live individuals 313 314 from two enclosures. Both dead specimens and broken tail spines were recovered in all enclosures. 315

Discussion 316

The results of our study indicate that *Bythotrephes* can have negative effects on several 317 measures of community structure, but that the initial community composition is an important 318

319 determinant of the extent of the effect of *Bythotrephes*. In the context of this experiment, the degree to which the zooplankton community in a lake had recovered from acidification 320 influenced the outcome of the invasion. This interactive effect of an invader with different 321 stages of recovery from acidification gives important evidence that the invasion of *Bythotrephes* 322 into different systems will have complex and unpredictable effects. In our study we found that 323 Bythotrephes negatively affected total community biomass and abundance, and caused 324 compositional shifts due to the loss of small cladoceran taxa. Surprisingly, *Bythotrephes* had a 325 stronger impact on the recovered zooplankton assemblage in terms of both total zooplankton 326 abundance and diversity, contrary to our expectation that the more diverse community would be 327 more resistant to stress. 328

Our experimental invasion of *Bythotrephes* into two distinct zooplankton communities in 329 different stages of recovery had a significant negative effect on the total abundance and total 330 biomass of zooplankton communities (Fig. 3). These results are consistent with previous studies 331 of invasions, where total zooplankton community abundance declined in mesocosms with 332 Bythotrephes (Wahlström and Westman 1999), and in Harp Lake, Ontario, where total 333 zooplankton abundance in pre-invasion years was greater than in post-invasion years (Yan et al. 334 2001). In addition, total mid-summer zooplankton biomass was 41% lower in lakes which had 335 been invaded by *Bythotrephes* in a one-time survey of 30 Shield lakes with and without the 336 invader (Boudreau and Yan 2003). The response of zooplankton in our enclosures was unlikely 337 caused by factors other than *Bythotrephes*. We detected no statistical differences in conductivity, 338 temperature, dissolved oxygen, or nutrients among our experimental treatments. There were 339 significant increases in total chlorophyll a in invaded enclosures, which is a response consistent 340 341 with declines in zooplankton abundance or biomass (i.e., decreased grazing rates). On Week 0

contributed to the higher abundance of chlorophyll a . Thus, declines in abundance and biomass 343 seem to be a consistent response of zooplankton communities to a *Bythotrephes* invasion, 344 regardless of the initial state or recovery status of the community. 345 A major factor in the decrease in total community abundance in our experiment was the 346 negative effect *Bythotrephes* had on *E. longispina* and *Bosmina (Bosmina)* spp. in the recovered 347 community. Our results concur with previous studies that have suggested that *Bythotrephes* has 348 a preference for bosminids (Wahlström and Westman 1999; Yan et al. 2001). However, in the 349 acid-damaged community, *Bythotrephes* had no effect on *Bosmina* (*Bosmina*) spp. and a positive 350 effect on *E. longispina*. This difference in response to *Bythotrephes* probably occurred because 351 Bosmina (Bosmina) spp. and E. longispina were able to escape heavy predation because of their 352 relatively low abundance. We found that the effect of *Bythotrephes* on individual species tended 353 to be dependent on the initial density of the prey species, which may have enabled some species 354 to escape predation and increase in abundance due to release from competition, e.g., E . 355 *longispina*. In a regression of the relative effect size of *Bythotrephes* against $log(x+1)$ -356 transformed abundances in the absence of the invader, zooplankton abundance explained a 357 highly significant amount of variation in the effect size of *Bythotrephes* on prey species (r^2 = 358 0.706, $p < 0.001$). This suggests that, although *Bythotrephes* exhibits a strong preference for 359

there tended to be higher levels of phosphorus in the invaded treatment, which may have also

cladocerans, it tends to prey on the most abundant species present. 360

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The individual species and community responses to *Bythotrephes* were dependent on the 361 recovery status of the zooplankton community. In our experiment, the presence of *Bythotrephes* 362 had a greater negative effect on the abundance of the recovered zooplankton community. Three 363 364 taxa (E. longispina, M. edax, and cyclopoid copepodids) were more negatively affected by

365 *Bythotrephes* in the recovered treatment, in agreement with other experimental and survey data in systems which were not damaged by acidification (Wahlström and Westman 1999; Boudreau 366 and Yan 2003). Communities structured by past acidification and at different stages of recovery 367 have species present in abundances that reflect their tolerance for the abiotic conditions of the 368 lake. In lakes invaded by *Bythotrephes*, the species most tolerant to the local abiotic 369 environment, and therefore the species with the highest concentrations, will be the most 370 susceptible to density-dependent predation. This effect will be exacerbated in recovered 371 communities where acid-sensitive cladocerans have returned to high concentrations. Dumitru et 372 al. (2001) calculated that *Bythotrephes* can remove $> 100\%$ of total zooplankton production per 373 day in Harp Lake, a Precambrian Shield lake. On average, cladocerans contribute $> 40\%$ of the 374 total zooplankton biomass in these lakes (Arnott et al. 2001). Therefore, density-dependent 375 376 predation, combined with feeding preferences for small cladocerans, makes this zooplankton group particularly vulnerable to *Bythotrephes* predation. In acid-damaged lakes, small 377 cladocerans are likely to experience a reduced impact of *Bythotrephes* because of their low 378 proportional abundance. The reduced effect of *Bythotrephes* on *E. longispina* in the acid-379 damaged community in our experiment supports this hypothesis. 380

Alternatively, the acid-damaged zooplankton community may have been suffering from 381 stress associated with being moved to higher pH. This stress may have prevented the community 382 from experiencing a rapid increase in the absence of predators, as shown in the recovered 383 community. However, if the acid-damaged zooplankton were stressed by the change in pH, they 384 likely would have decreased in abundance within the first few weeks of the experiment. There 385 was no significant difference in the abundance of acid-damaged zooplankton in the no 386

387 *Bythotrephes* treatment between Weeks 0 and 1 (*t*-test, $p = 0.646$), thus, pH stress is an unlikely explanation for differences in acid-damaged and recovered community responses to invasion. 388

Density dependent predation likely explains the observed effect of *Bythotrephes* on 389 species diversity. In the acid-damaged community, $> 90\%$ of species abundance was attributable 390 to two acid-tolerant species, L. minutus and D. birgei. By preying on the most abundant species, 391 *Bythotrephes* allowed other species to be released from competition for resources, resulting in 392 increased levels of diversity in the acid-damaged community. 393

We were surprised by the lack of a significant effect of *Bythotrephes* on species richness. 394 Yan et al. (2002) detected a 17% decline in species richness in Harp Lake over a period of seven 395 years following the invasion of *Bythotrephes*. As well, Boudreau and Yan (2003) found a 30% 396 decrease in species richness in 13 boreal Shield lakes invaded by *Bythotrephes*. Our inability to 397 detect an effect of *Bythotrephes* on crustacean zooplankton richness was probably because of the 398 short-term scale of our experiment. The long-term monitoring program of Harp Lake generated 399 a database with 12 and seven years of pre- and post-invasion samples, respectively (Yan et al. 400 2001; Yan et al. 2002). Boudreau and Yan (2003) sampled lakes which may have been invaded 401 for up to 10 years and thus had several years for *Bythotrephes* to impact the zooplankton 402 community. Our experiment lasted four weeks, and while this duration was long enough to 403 detect changes in species concentrations, it may not have been long enough for the extirpation of 404 species to take place. 405

406 In summary, recovered and acid-damaged zooplankton communities responded differently to *Bythotrephes* in terms of individual species concentrations and for more aggregate 407 community structure metrics, including total zooplankton concentration and diversity. We were 408 409 surprised to find that the impact of *Bythotrephes* was greater in the recovered than the acid-

410 damaged zooplankton community. This suggests that when an invasive species enters a system that is being influenced by other anthropogenic stressors, the results may be complex and 411 difficult to predict. In our experiment, the initial composition of the community, especially the 412 abundance of favoured prey, small cladocerans, seemed to influence the magnitude of the effect 413 that *Bythotrephes* had on the community. Similarly, other studies have found that the interaction 414 of multiple stressors had varying and surprising results on aquatic communities. In their study, 415 Folt et al. (1999) found that the combination of 30 $^{\circ}$ C temperature with either low food or a toxin 416 was more harmful to daphniids than the effects of either one of the stressors alone. In other 417 cases, the combination of the toxin and low temperature (20 $^{\circ}$ C) was less stressful than the effect 418 of the single worst stressor by itself (Folt et al. 1999). In Swan Lake, near Sudbury, Ontario, 419 chemical and biotic recovery from long-term acid deposition was interrupted by an additional 420 stressor: a two year drought which caused the lake to re-acidify (Yan et al. 1996a). This 421 interaction between climate and acidification had unpredictable effects, including a temporary 422 increase in crustacean zooplankton species richness resulting, partially, from the appearance of 423 acid-sensitive species (Arnott et al. 2001). A review of marine and estuarine non-indigenous 424 species invasions found that a high percentage of invasions occurred with other stressors, but that 425 these effects were seldom quantified (Ruiz et al. 1999). To date, ours is the first study that we 426 have knowledge of that quantitatively examines how an invasive species can interact with 427 biological recovery from acidification. 428

Our study provides evidence that the concerted effect of invasion and acidification will 429 have substantial negative impacts on crustacean zooplankton in lakes. This is especially 430 important for crustacean zooplankton, which are generally slow to recover from acidification 431 432 (Locke et al. 1994) and are the primary prey items for *Bythotrephes*. In Yan et al.'s (2003)

433 conceptual framework of biological recovery, suitable water quality, followed by availability of colonists, and overcoming demographic and stochastic hurdles are the main steps to recovery. 434 The last step in this framework is influenced by community-level factors, such as predation, 435 which will modify the population growth of the target organism, and thus affect biological 436 recovery (Yan et al. 2003). The invasion of *Bythotrephes* in lakes may effectively implement a 437 roadblock to recovery by preving on species in the process of recovery. $A > 64\%$ decline in the 438 abundance of L. minutus in our acid-damaged treatment that was exposed to Bythotrephes 439 predation, suggests that *Bythotrephes* will likely have a substantial impact on acid-damaged 440 lakes where L. minutus dominates the community. This is of particular importance because a 441 recent study revealed that L. minutus is currently the dominant crustacean zooplankton species in 442 35% of the lakes in Killarney Park (Arnott, unpublished manuscript). Sprules (1975) identified 443 six main species that occur in Killarney lakes across a broad pH range: *Diaptomus minutus*, 444 Bosmina longirostris, Holopedium gibberum, Mesocyclops edax, Cyclops bicuspidatus thomasi, 445 and *Diaphanosoma leuchtenbergianum* (see Table 5 for taxonomic revisions). Of these acid-446 tolerant species, *Bythotrephes* negatively affected abundances of three in both recovered and 447 acid-damaged communities in our study, and negatively affected two others in the recovered 448 community only (Table 5). As well, the abundances of two acid-sensitive species, *Daphnia* 449 *retrocurva* and *Epischura lacustris*, which were rare in the Sprules (1975) survey, were 450 negatively impacted by *Bythotrephes* in the recovered community in our study (Table 5). This 451 suggests that invasion of *Bythotrephes* into regions affected by acidification, can impact not only 452 species that are widely distributed across the landscape, but also rarer species that may exist in 453 small isolated populations. The reduction or loss of these isolated, potential sources of colonists 454

455 may reduce dispersal rates to other lakes, thereby having important negative consequences for regional recovery of the biota. 456

A long-term study of recovering lakes has shown that failed colonization events can 457 occur frequently, even when conditions are suitable for the establishment of species (Keller et al. 458 2002). In one of the study lakes, species were able to arrive via internal and/or external modes 459 of colonization, but failed to establish lasting populations, in part due to biological resistance 460 from the invertebrate predator, *Chaoborus* (Keller et al. 2002), which can prey on many smaller 461 species of zooplankton, including some species of *Daphnia* (Vanni 1988). It is likely that 462 Bythotrephes, which has high predation rates (Lehman and Cáceres 1993; Dumitru et al. 2001), 463 would have a similar effect on colonizing species of zooplankton, preventing their establishment 464 in recovering lakes. Our study suggests that *Bythotrephes* will disrupt the structure of 465 communities that are acid-damaged and those at more advanced stages of recovery, changing the 466 probable biological endpoint of recovery, such that it will no longer possible for the community 467 to return to its former composition. 468

Although the direct effects of *Bythotrephes* on zooplankton have been observed in other 469 systems, previous studies have not shown an indirect effect of *Bythotrephes* on chlorophyll *a* 470 (Lehman and Cáceres 1993; Wahlström and Westman 1999). In our experiment, the 471 Bythotrephes treatments had significantly higher concentrations of chlorophyll a. This indirect 472 effect of *Bythotrephes* on phytoplankton in the enclosures suggests that by altering the 473 474 composition of the zooplankton community, the invader can cause a trophic cascade of effects in the food web. The invasion of another exotic species of the Cercopagid family, Cercopagis 475 pengoi, has resulted in numerous changes to the food web of Lake Ontario. High abundances of 476 C. pengoi resulted in declines of the herbivores Daphnia retrocurva (reduced from 4650 ind m³ 477

to 120 ind $m³$ and *Bosmina longirostris* (reduced from 32 000 ind $m³$ to 125 ind $m³$) in 1999, 478 which led to an increase in phytoplankton biomass (Laxson et al. 2003). Our experimental 479 results indicate that more moderate declines in zooplankton abundance (32% and 8% reduction 480 in recovered and acid-damaged communities, respectively) can still precipitate changes in the 481 lower trophic levels. 482

We recovered few *Bythotrephes* at the end of the experiment. Several factors may be 483 responsible. First, *Bythotrephes* populations may not have been successfully established in the 484 enclosures. This explanation seems unlikely, as third instar individuals, carrying eggs in the late 485 stage of development, were detected near the end of the experiment. This suggests that there 486 were adequate resources to support healthy, reproducing individuals and that new individuals 487 were entering the populations. Second, the conical net used for routine sampling was small (0.15) 488 489 m diameter). Small nets can be avoided more easily than large nets (Fleminger and Clutter 1965), especially by large-bodied zooplankton, such as *Bythotrephes*, that have a compound eye 490 and can swim more quickly than some smaller zooplankton (see Muirhead and Sprules (2003) 491 for a comparison of swimming velocities). The use of the larger net at the conclusion of the 492 experiment should have reduced this problem. While some *Bythotrephes* may have been able to 493 avoid the net, it may be that populations were reduced at this point in the experiment, compared 494 to the starting concentrations. Another possibility is that there was greater mortality of 495 *Bythotrephes* individuals collected in routine sampling for other zooplankton. This seems 496 unlikely as no more than two individuals were ever captured from an enclosure, compared to a 497 total of 68 that were initially stocked. In other experimental enclosures, there was a reduction in 498 Bythotrephes concentration throughout the experiment when concentrations were high (37.5 and 499 62.5 Bythotrephes ind $m³$) (Wahlström and Westman 1999), likely due to cannibalism between 500

conspecifics at high densities. Although our starting concentration was much lower (10 ind $m³$) 501 and cannibalism was probably not a factor controlling populations, we suspect that *Bythotrephes* 502 populations in our experiment may have also declined throughout the experiment. However, the 503 fact that we captured reproducing individuals and that we detected significant differences in 504 many parameters of zooplankton community structure in our experiment, leads us to conclude 505 that our *Bythotrephes* treatment was maintained, although perhaps at lower concentrations 506 toward the end of the experiment. If Bythotrephes densities did indeed decline through our 507 experiment, as in Wahlström and Westman (1999), our results are probably conservative 508 estimates of the magnitude of effects of *Bythotrephes* on recovered and acid-damaged 509 zooplankton communities. 510

A criticism of enclosure studies is that they lack the complexity of an entire ecosystem 511 (Schindler 1998b). Our study was a unique attempt to experimentally unravel the direct 512 consequences of an invasion on different zooplankton communities, while removing 513 confounding factors, such as competition with other invertebrates and predation from fish. 514 However, the absence of planktivorous fish to prey on *Bythotrephes* in our experiment may 515 create an unrealistic scenario for the invasion of this species into small inland lakes. 516 Bythotrephes' role in restructuring the zooplankton community of Harp Lake has occurred under 517 intensive fish predation, where lake herring (Coregonus artediii) selectively feed on the invader, 518 even though its relative abundance and biomass is lower than other preferred prey items (Coulas 519 et al. 1998). Decreases in the abundances of four species of native cladocerans were observed in 520 Lake Michigan after the invasion of *Bythotrephes*, where all but *Daphnia galeata mendotae* were 521 decimated, despite the presence of planktivorous fish (Lehman and Cáceres 1993). Past studies 522 523 have suggested that invertebrate predators can only structure zooplankton communities when

524 planktivorous fish are absent or in low abundance (Black II and Hairston Jr. 1988). However, *Bythotrephes* has demonstrated the ability to structure zooplankton communities, regardless of 525 whether or not it is in the presence of fish, suggesting that it can be an important component of 526 lake food webs, and thus, that our manipulation was realistic. An additional criticism of 527 enclosure studies is the brevity of the experimental manipulation and the applicability of the 528 results in the long term. Studies of this nature can be looked upon as models that examine 529 specific questions, which can then be tested in increasingly complex ways, exploring a range of 530 possibilities that can occur in natural systems (Drake et al. 1996). At this level of organization, 531 the direct effects of invertebrate predation on zooplankton communities occur quickly, due to the 532 short generation times of these organisms, but can be important in the long-term structuring of 533 the community. For example, a feeding experiment with *Chaoborus* conducted in ≤ 6 d found 534 results that were consistent with field studies of the size-selective predation of *Chaoborus* on 535 Daphnia (MacKay and Elser 1998). In addition, the indirect consequences of predation, such as 536 release from competition, can also cause changes to occur rapidly in the zooplankton 537 community, as some taxa can increase their abundance quickly due to parthenogenic 538 reproduction. Our experiment provides a stepping stone for future predictions about the effects 539 of Bythotrephes in boreal lakes. Due to the rapid spread of Bythotrephes in inland lakes, many 540 natural whole-lake experiments will be created, allowing for further tests of the specific 541 hypotheses generated by our experiment. 542

The invasion of exotic species is a problem of growing concern, as both terrestrial and 543 aquatic ecosystems are susceptible to introductions from a variety of sources, e.g., ballast water, 544 aquaculture, intentional introductions (see Ricciardi and Rasmussen 1998). In this study, the 545 546 effects of an invasive species on two very different communities were experimentally tested.

547 *Bythotrephes* negatively affected community and species parameters in both recovered and aciddamaged zooplankton communities. This will have serious implications for the continued 548 success of biological recovery in the wake of decreased sulphur dioxide emissions and improved 549 water chemistry. 550

At the community-level, both acid-tolerant species, such as *L. minutus*, which occupies a 551 large fraction of lakes and dominates zooplankton assemblages in acidification events, as well as 552 acid-sensitive species, such as E . *longispina*, which are recolonizing lakes in the improved 553 environment, were negatively affected. At the ecosystem-level, declines of 32% and 28% in the 554 biomass of recovered and acid-damaged zooplankton, respectively, will likely have severe 555 effects on several trophic levels throughout the food web. Planktivorous fish rely on 556 zooplankton as a food source, and will likely suffer from both decreases in prey availability and 557 increased competition from *Bythotrephes*, resulting in greater energetic costs to obtain food. A 558 previous study has also shown that other invertebrate predators may be outcompeted for food and 559 directly preyed upon by this voracious invader (Branstrator 1995). Phytoplankton populations 560 may proliferate in the absence of herbivorous zooplankton, as these experimental results suggest 561 that release from predation pressure by *Bythotrephes* can increase phytoplankton biomass. 562 Overall, the results from our experiment suggests that *Bythotrephes* will not only affect 563 zooplankton communities directly through changes to its structure, but will indirectly alter other 564 trophic levels in boreal lakes, leading to unexpected food web changes in different lake types. 565

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Table 1. Summary of water chemistry variables of Kakakise Lake, Bell Lake, and Ruth Roy 726

Lake, Killarney Park, Ontario from data collected from a surface water sample (3-4 July 2001; J. 727

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Table 2. Average pH, conductivity ($\mu S \cdot cm^{-1}$), total phosphorus ($\mu g \cdot L^{-1}$), surface temperature 751 ($^{\circ}$ C), and dissolved oxygen (mg·L⁻¹) measured on each enclosure on selected dates during the 752

753			experiment. The standard deviations of the measurements are in parentheses.	

Table 3. Two-factor repeated measures analysis of variance on zooplankton community metrics 754

in enclosures comparing the effect of an invasion Bythotrephes (Bytho) on recovered and acid-755

damaged (Recov) communities across the length of the experiment (Time). Values reported are 756

F-ratios. $\dagger p < 0.1$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$ 757

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- Table 4. Two-factor repeated measures analysis of variance on abundance of zooplankton 759
- species in enclosures comparing the effect of an invasion of Bythotrephes (Bytho) on recovered 760
- and acid-damaged (Recov) communities across the length of the experiment (Time). Values 761

reported are F-ratios. $\dagger p < 0.1$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$ 762

 $edax$

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764 Table 5. A summary of the effects of *Bythotrephes* on species in acid-damaged and recovered enclosures, listed from the least pH tolerance to the greatest. Species included occur on at least 765 four dates in the experiment. The tolerance ranges reported are limited to the geographic region 766 767 of our study, as species responses may vary in different locales.

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* Source for Eubosmina longispina: Keller and Yan (1998), Sida crystallina: Walseng et al. (2003), all others from 769 770 Sprules (1975)

^a Formerly *Tropocyclops prasinus mexicanus* 771

^b Formerly Cyclops bicuspidatus thomasi 772

^c Formerly Diaphanosoma leuchtenbergianum 773

 d Formerly Holopedium gibberum 774

^e Formerly Bosmina longirostris 775

776 ^f Formerly Diaptomus minutus

778 Figure 1. Study site in Killarney Wilderness Park, Ontario, Canada.

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- Vertical bars represent standard error ($n = 3$ for all treatments except recovery and no
- *Bythotrephes* where $n = 2$ *).*

Week of experiment