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Sources partitioning in the diet of the shipworm *Bankia carinata* (J.E. Gray, 1827): an experimental study based on stable isotopes

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Abstract

Adaptations that allow teredinids to maintain and thrive on wood, a nutritionally unbalanced food, make these marine bivalves remarkable. Capable of filter-feeding, shipworms house endosymbiotic bacteria synthesizing cellulolytic enzymes for digestion of wood carbohydrates and providing nitrogen to their host through nitrogen fixation. To what extent each of these nutrition modes contributes to the shipworm's metabolism remains an open question. In this experimental study, we estimated source partitioning through the determination of $\delta^{13}C$ and $\delta^{15}N$ values in original biological samples. For this purpose, pieces of common alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) were immersed at a coastal station of the north-western Mediterranean Sea. The shipworm *Bankia carinata* infected wood logs and stable isotope mixing models suggested it got most of the carbon and nitrogen it needs from separate sources. From 71 to 77% of the carbon was derived from the digestion of wood carbohydrates, whereas between 42 and 82% of the nitrogen originated from N_2 fixation. These first semi-quantitative estimations suggest that the contribution of N_2 fixers to nitrogen requirements of this shipworm species is far from incidental.

Keywords: Teredinidae, Trophic ecology, Stable isotope, *in situ* experiment, Mediterranean Sea

Graphical Abstract

Highlights:

- Nearly all teredinid mollusks are obligate wood eaters.
- Food sources partitioning in the diet of *Bankia carinata* was investigated based on stable isotope analysis.
- The shipworms get the carbon and nitrogen they need from separate sources.
- $\delta^{13}C$ values strongly suggest that most carbon is derived from wood.
- Stable isotope mixing models indicate that N_2 fixed by endosymbionts provides at least half of the nitrogen content of the bivalves.

1. Introduction

Wood-boring teredinid bivalves occur on wood scattered at sea. In spite of being pests for all kinds of maritime wooden structures, these mollusks, commonly known as shipworms, are one of the finest examples of adaptation within the tree of life (Cragg et al., 2015). The strategy that enables these bivalves to digest wood and supplement a nutritionally imbalanced diet has been debated for over a century. While it was shown some time ago that shipworms were able to digest carbohydrates from wood (Dore and Miller, 1923; Miller and Boynton, 1926), the coverage of nitrogen requirements has remained under discussion (Carpenter and Culliney, 1975; Greenfield, 1952; Lasker and Lane, 1953; Nishimoto et al., 2009; Pechenik et al., 1979; Yamanaka et al., 2015) to explain how some species (Gallager et al., 1981) possess the ability to maintain and thrive in the absence of any other food source than wood.

Rather than taking advantage of an association with its gut microflora which otherwise is scarce (Betcher et al., 2012), shipworms produce endogenous lignocellulolytic enzymes (Sabbadin et al., 2018), but also rely on dense populations of intracellular bacterial symbionts hosted in the gland of Deshayes, a cluster of bacteriocytes located within the gills (Popham and Dickson, 1973). The many types of bacteria housed in these eukaryotic cells can both digest wood carbohydrates and fix nitrogen gas (Distel et al., 2002; Waterbury et al., 1983). It has been demonstrated that wood-degrading enzymes produced by the endosymbionts were selectively translocated from the gills to the gut of the host (O'Connor et al., 2014), and that dissolved nitrogen fixed by the intracellular bacterial symbionts within the bacteriocytes could further be used for host metabolism (Lechene et al., 2007). All this makes teredinids a unique model in animal endosymbiosis (Lechene et al., 2007) and may explain how shipworms are able to use wood as a primary food source.

Marine wood-boring bivalves are indeed remarkable consumers in that the number of potential feeding sources differs according to whether one considers their carbon or nitrogen requirement. With regard to carbon sources, teredinids can rely on wood but also, as filter-feeding bivalves, on suspended particulate organic matter from sea water. Regarding nitrogen sources, wood content is seemingly inadequate to meet shipworms' requirements (Lasker and Lane, 1953; Carpenter and Culliney, 1975), but nitrogen incorporation from this source cannot be excluded (Greenfield, 1952; Yamanaka et al., 2015). Suspended organic particles are also sources of nitrogen but may remain incidental (Gallager et al., 1981) because the ability to filter feed in most shipworm species is reduced by the shortening of gill lamellae (Turner, 1966, Distel et al., 2011). Nitrogen fixation by endosymbionts (Lechene et al., 2007) is one further source. Even though the routes of C and N are known and common among shipworm species, the relative contribution of these routes to the shipworms' metabolism remains controversial particularly with respect to nitrogen.

Stable isotope compositions of marine organic matter, terrestrial plants and N_2 dissolved in seawater are different (Peterson and Fry, 1987), and can therefore help in deciphering the composition of the shipworm's diet. To our knowledge, the few studies published on this topic were not conclusive about source partitioning (Nishimoto et al., 2009; Paalvast and van der Velde, 2013; Yamanaka et al., 2015). In this context, the aim of the present study was thus to investigate carbon and nitrogen source

partitioning by shipworms via an *in situ* experimental approach and through the use of stable isotopes ($\delta^{13}C$, $\delta^{15}N$).

2. Material and methods

2.1 Experimental design

The experiment was performed from June 6 to October 24, 2016 in the Bay of Banyuls-sur-Mer, in the north-western Mediterranean Sea, France. Twelve 15 cm long sections were sawn from, a branch of a common alder tree, *Alnus glutinosa* (L.) Gaertner, a widespread tree species along the banks of La Massane, a local river which drains a small forested basin on the foothills of the French Pyrenees mountains. The bark-intact small logs were air-dried indoors for a full year before being arranged into packs and deployed at a coastal station (26 m depth; 42°29'302 N; 03°08'700 E). Each pack consisted of four 2.5 to 5.5 cm cross-section wooden pieces tied together with a Colson™ collar. Two packs were installed in June and an additional one on August 20. Wood packs were attached at one end to an anchor and at the other end to a polyethylene buoy in such a way that the wood blocks remained suspended between 1 and 1.5 m above the seabed (Fig. S1).

2.2 Sampling and preparation for stable isotope analyses

Potential food sources, namely alder wood within the experimental wood packs and suspended particulate organic matter (SPOM) from the surrounding sea water, were sampled on several occasions during the experiment. Alder wood was sampled on June 6, at the time of deployment of the first wood packs, and on October 24 after time intervals of nearly 2 and 4.5 months from submersion. SPOM was sampled when installing the experiment, at two intermediate dates, July 7th and September 8th, and at the end of the experiment. Consumers, namely animals present either on (i.e. *Mytilus galloprovincialis*, *Hiatella arctica*, *Musculus subpictus*, *Serpula vermicularis*, *Spirobranchus triqueter*, *Ascidia conchilega*) or inside (*Bankia carinata*) the wood logs, were sampled once, on October 24.

Three water samples were collected for SPOM near the submerged wood with a Niskin bottle (10 L) and pre-filtered through a 200 µm mesh to remove large zooplankton and detritus. SPOM was then recovered by filtration on pre-combusted Whatman GF/F filters, 25 mm in diameter, 0.7 µm pore size. The filters were then placed in individual petri dishes and dried in an oven at 50°C overnight. Dry filters were kept away from light in a desiccator until analysis.

Invertebrate species present at the surface of the wood packs were collected manually. Wood logs were then cut with a chisel for the collection of wood samples and shipworms. All the animals present were kept alive for 24h in filtered sea water to allow evacuation of the gut contents and, if necessary, were then dissected to separate flesh from the shells. Wood chips and animal tissues were rinsed with deionised water and stored in aluminium foil at -20°C until analysis. Freeze-dried tissues and wood samples were ground into a fine powder using a ball mill (MM 400, Retsch) and a sander (R3000, Dremel), respectively. These samples were then weighed into tin capsules (ca. 0.3 to 0.4 mg for all sample tissue and wood carbon analysis, and ca. 4 to 5 mg for wood nitrogen analysis).

SPOM samples may contain carbonates that are more enriched in ^{13}C than plant and animal tissues (DeNiro and Epstein, 1978). Accordingly, $\delta^{13}C$ and $\delta^{15}N$ were analysed separately. For

measurements of $\delta^{13}C$ values, one half of each filter was acidified for 4 h with 37 % HCl acid vapours under moderate vacuum in a glass desiccator to remove carbonates (Malet et al., 2007). For measurements of $\delta^{15}N$ values, the remaining half of each filter was analysed without any pre-treatment, as acidification may alter nitrogen isotope composition (Bunn et al., 1995; Kennedy et al., 2005). The two sets of sub-samples (i.e. acidified half-filters and non-acidified half-filters) were packed separately into individual tin capsules.

2.3 Stable isotope ratio measurements

Carbon and nitrogen isotope composition was determined using an elemental analyser (Flash EA 1112, Thermo Scientific, Milan, Italy) coupled to a continuous-flow isotope-ratio mass spectrometer (Delta V Advantage with a Conflo IV interface, Thermo Scientific, Bremen Germany). Analyses were conducted at the LIENSs stable isotope facility at the University of La Rochelle, France. Data are expressed in the δ notation (in ‰) as deviations from international standards (Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite for $\delta^{13}C$ and N_2 in air for $\delta^{15}N$) following the formula: $\delta X = [(R_{sample} / R_{reference}) - 1] \times 10^3$, with $R = {}^{13}C/{}^{12}C$ for carbon and ${}^{15}N/{}^{14}N$ for nitrogen. Calibration was done using reference materials (USGS-24, IAEA-CH6, IAEA-600 for carbon; IAEA-N2, IAEA-NO-3, IAEA-600 for nitrogen). Analytical precision was 0.15 ‰ for both C and N isotope analyses based on the analyses of acetanilide (Thermo Scientific) and peptone (Sigma-Aldrich) used as internal laboratory standards.

2.4 Data analysis and statistical treatment

All statistics were performed using R, released by the R Foundation for Statistical Computing (R Core Team, 2013). First, from the R commander package (Fox and Vialat, 2017), non-parametric Mann-Whitney U tests were run for testing the hypothesis that the distribution of data was the same between groups. In this context, data accounted for either δ values or C/N ratio; groups for exposure intervals to seawater (2 vs 4.5 months), food sources (wood vs SPOM), or feeding modes (suspension-feeding vs xylotrophy).

The Bayesian mixing model SIAR (Stable Isotope Analysis in R; Parnell et al., 2010) was used to infer the feasible contributions of carbon and nitrogen sources to the diet of the shipworms. Models were run for 200,000 iterations and the first 50,000 iterations were discarded. For SIAR calculations, *A. glutinosa* wood and SPOM were considered as potential sources of carbon while *A. glutinosa*, SPOM and dissolved N_2 were considered as potential sources of nitrogen. Isotope compositions of SPOM and wood used as end-members into mixing models were averages of values measured all along the study to account for potential temporal variations of their isotope compositions. Trophic fractionation factors used in mixing models were 0.30 ± 0.21‰ for $\delta^{13}C$ values and 2.5 ± 0.25‰ for $\delta^{15}N$ values, corresponding to values for invertebrate species (whole body) as reviewed by Caut et al. (2009). Concerning the specific utilization of dissolved N_2 by the bivalves, we thus used the $\delta^{15}N$ of 0.6‰ given by Sigman et al. (2009) for the marine dissolved N_2 and a fractionation of -1‰ as suggested by these authors for the fixed N input to the ocean from N_2 fixation. No fractionation was expected between the endosymbionts and their host (Conway et al., 1989).

3. Results

3.1 Stable isotope compositions

$\delta^{15}N$ and $\delta^{13}C$ values of alder wood remained in narrow ranges around mean values of -2.2‰ and -29.2‰ for N and C isotopes, respectively (Table 1, Figure 1). Ranges of SPOM isotope compositions were slightly wider around mean time-integrated values of 3.4‰ and -23.8‰ for $\delta^{15}N$ and $\delta^{13}C$ values, respectively. Alder wood was significantly more ^{15}N depleted and ^{13}C depleted than SPOM and contained two orders less nitrogen relative to its carbon content compared to SPOM (one-sided Mann-Whitney U-test, $p = 1$ in all cases).

The number of animals present either on or inside the wood logs increased with exposure time intervals. Only one species of shipworm (Table 2), namely, *Bankia carinata* (J.E. Gray 1827), was observed. Most other taxonomic groups consisted of suspension-feeding species. As no significant difference for both $\delta^{15}N$ and $\delta^{13}C$ values was observed between the two exposure intervals to seawater (two-sided Mann-Whitney U test, $p = 0.09$, $p = 0.10$), *B. carinata* was considered a homogenous group. The average $\delta^{15}N$ value of the shipworm bodies was close to 0‰ and their content was highly depleted in ^{13}C with a mean $\delta^{13}C$ value of -27.5‰. Shipworms were much more ^{15}N and ^{13}C depleted than known strict seston feeders such as *M. galloprovincialis*, *H. arctica*, *M. subpictus*, *S. vermicularis*, *S. triqueter* or *A. conchilega* (one-sided Mann-Whitney U-tests, $p = 1$ for all cases). Higher C/N ratios were observed in shipworms (one-sided Mann-Whitney U-tests, $p = 1$) due to higher carbon (39.9 ± 1.9% versus 34.9 ± 3.3%) and lower nitrogen contents (5.2 ± 1.6% versus 8.4 ± 1.6%) than in other consumers. The addition of trophic fractionation factors to alder wood isotope compositions demonstrates a slight shift between expected and measured of $\delta^{13}C$ values in shipworms (Figure 1).

3.2 Stable isotope mixing models

Based on 95% Bayesian credible intervals, wood and SPOM proportions to shipworms carbon diet ranged from 71 to 77% (mode = 74%), and 23 to 29% (mode = 26%), respectively (Figure 2A). As a result, alder wood contributed to most of the carbon assimilated by the shipworms during the experiment as compared to local SPOM. Among the three nitrogen sources (Figure 2B), the Bayesian mixing model suggested a major contribution from N_2 fixation (ranging from 42 to 82%, mode = 54%) and from *A. glutinosa* (from 9% to 51%, mode = 37%), much higher than contribution of SPOM (7 to 13%, mode = 9%).

4. Discussion

Bankia carinata resorted to all the pathways of carbon and nitrogen acquisition described in shipworms. The approach permitted us to determine estimates of nitrogen source contribution, even though the number of sources was too large to get a unique solution from standard linear mixing models. As expected, the conversion of isotope compositions into contributions to the shipworm diet confirmed that wood was the main source of carbon, but it primarily revealed the significant contribution of nitrogen fixation pathways to the nitrogen content.

4.1 Source partitioning in the diet of *B. carinata*

Bankia carinata possesses a large caecum storing wood particles and all features associated with xylotrophy in shipworms, including the presence of dense populations of endosymbiotic bacteria within the large interlamellar space of the single demibranch gills (Distel et al., 2011). In European waters, this shipworm has only been reported in the Mediterranean Sea (Turner, 1966) probably because of a preference for hypersaline conditions (Borges et al., 2014). *Bankia carinata* is a broadcast spawning species that releases fertilized eggs into the water for long periods of development, increasing larval dispersion. Growth in the genus *Bankia* is generally fast and produces adults of large size (Haderlie and Mellor, 1973; MacIntosh et al., 2014). This species is reported in the studied area together with *Lyrodus pedicellatus*, *Teredo navalis* and *Nototeredo norvagica* (Charles et al., 2018). As population dynamics patterns depend on reproductive modes, differences must be expected in food source partitioning between shipworm species according to the level of exhaustion of the wood resource.

The measurement of isotope ratios on the whole body of the borers corresponded to the isotopic signature of the flesh of the shipworms including those of the bacteria from the digestive tract and the endosymbionts from the gills. The digestive tract, however, contains relatively few bacteria (Betcher et al, 2012) and endosymbiont bacteria represent a negligible amount of matter compared to the tissues of the shipworm. Thence, it is reasonable to assume that the measurements made on the shipworms were essentially the values of the isotopic ratios in the tissues of the host.

The differences of $\delta^{13}C$ and $\delta^{15}N$ values between *B. carinata* and SPOM highlighted that, despite being able to capture organic particles from water, *B. carinata* food resources drastically differ from those of strict filter feeders living in the same trophic conditions (Figure 1). Accordingly, from these results, most of the carbon in shipworms is clearly derived from the consumption of alder wood (Figure 2a). The carbon isotope mixing model suggested that SPOM could seemingly represent 25% of shipworm's diet. Structural tissues of wood mainly consist of carbohydrates and lignin but shipworms only digest carbohydrates (Dore and Miller, 1923; Miller and Boynton, 1926; Sabbadin et al., 2018). Carbohydrates are more enriched in ^{13}C than lignin (Benner et al., 1987), and this gives whole wood a $\delta^{13}C$ value which probably led to underestimate the contribution of wood source. This was further suggested by the outputs of the mixing models based on $\delta^{15}N$ values. High carbon content in the shipworms reflects the accumulation of large amounts of glycogen (Greenfield, 1952; Potts, 1923) which serves as an energy store in bivalves (De Zwaan and Zandee, 1972) and has been shown to be exclusively derived from digestion of wood carbohydrates in the shipworm *Lyrodus pedicellatus* (Lane et al., 1952).

According to the SIAR mixing model, SPOM contributed about 10% in average of the nitrogen of the shipworms. Out of the two other potential sources, the mixing model suggested that nitrogen coming from endosymbiosis contributed to the nitrogen pool of the shipworm tissues at an equal or even greater level than alder wood. From the C/N ratio, it appears that *B. carinata* had reduced nitrogen requirements relative to other bivalves but a nitrogen content 20 times higher than that of alder wood. Shipworms can rely on wood to acquire their nitrogen (Lasker and Lane, 1953; Yamanaka et al., 2015) but also through the association with the N_2-fixing endosymbionts hosted in their gills (Lechene et al., 2007). Even though, by minimizing excretory losses, shipworms are extremely conservative with respect to nitrogen (Gallager et al., 1981), wood source alone can barely cover all their nitrogen needs. Together

with recycling mechanisms, a polytrophic capacity is probably the best feeding strategy for balancing requirements in poor-nitrogen environments (Muscatine and Porter, 1977). Intracellular bacteria populations from the gland of Deshayes produce cellulolytic enzymes which presumably in combination with enzymes produced endogenously (Sabbadin et al., 2018) allow shipworms to digest efficiently large amounts of wood carbohydrates. Endosymbiotic bacteria probably fulfill their N_2 fixing function with an equal efficiency to the benefit of their host. Accordingly, the conversion of dissolved nitrogen gas into shipworm biomass is likely far from being incidental as suggested by the present study.

4.2 Carbon and nitrogen sources: scope of the study

The $\delta^{15}N$ value of marine dissolved N_2 was not measured but dissolved N_2 in equilibrium with atmospheric N_2 in the surface ocean has a $\delta^{15}N$ value that does not vary greatly from 0.6‰ (Sigman et al., 2009). Molecular nitrogen fixation commonly results in weak, slightly negative isotope fractionation (Wada and Hattori, 1979) and no fractionation between endosymbionts and their host was expected (Conway et al., 1989). As a result, the $\delta^{15}N$ value of dissolved gas nitrogen and fractionation factor implemented into the mixing model must be relatively close to the actual values. The slight ^{15}N enrichment of shipworm tissue relative to dinitrogen suggests that N_2 fixation through endosymbiotic interaction contributed significantly to the nitrogen content of the shipworm. The contribution of other pathways of dinitrogen-fixing (i.e., ingestion of planktonic diazotrophs or wood particles from nitrogen-fixing tree species) would imply trophic enrichment factors and that would have led to the higher ^{15}N enrichment of the shipworm.

Regarding wood source, *Alnus glutinosa* is a common tree species on the banks of European rivers. Alder wood, therefore, has good chance to end up at sea after events of river flooding. During this study, the characteristics of wood which was initially introduced dry into the water changed very little. $\delta^{13}C$ values and C/N ratios were representative of most terrestrial C_3 primary producers and in the range of those found in the literature for tree wood (Nishimoto et al 2009; Paalvast and van der Velde 2013, Yamaka et al., 2015). $\delta^{15}N$ values of wood are more variable, showing particularly negative values as previously reported at this site by Carlier et al. (2007) or for terrestrial plants (Fogel et al., 2008; Zapata-Hernandez et al., 2016), including alder tree species (Chambers et al., 2004). Nitrogen incorporation pathways differ among tree species. Alder, which grows on poor quality soils is, for instance, able to supplement its needs through an association with nitrogen-fixing bacteria hosted in its roots (Hooker and Wheeler, 1987). *Alnus incana* is known to derive almost all its nitrogen from the atmosphere (Chambers et al., 2004). This assigned to the wood source a trophic position which probably led us to overestimate its contribution to the nitrogen content of the shipworm, at the expense of the other sources. It, therefore, should be kept in mind that the scope of this study concerns a nitrogen-fixing tree species.

$\delta^{13}C$ and $\delta^{15}N$ values of SPOM were consistent with previous measurements at the studied site (Carlier et al., 2007; Nahon et al., 2012) with ranges of temporal changes of nearly 2‰ for both elements. Marine SPOM is a mixture of living and dead particles (Fry, 1988) of which the total amount and the individual contribution changed according to the seasons and weather conditions. For instance, particles collected in July, when the weather was calm, had δ values and C/N ratio representative of what is

reported for plankton (Peterson et al., 1986), while low $\delta^{13}C$ values and high C/N ratio measured in June and October were characteristic at the studied site of surficial sediment resuspended after windy weather conditions (Charles et al., 2012). On these occasions, debris of vascular plants could be observed in the water samples and most photosynthetic pigments were degraded (data not shown). The sampling approach allowed thus to produce average values of δ and C/N that best reflected the food source for the shipworms and the co-occurring common filter-feeding species over the study period. It, however, should be noted that sampled SPOM particles ranged from 0.7 to 200 µm, and there is considerable heterogeneity in natural abundances of ^{13}C and ^{15}N among the discrete size classes of SPOM (Rau et al., 1990). $\delta^{13}C$ and $\delta^{15}N$ values of the smallest size fractions of SPOM can be as low as -25.3‰ and -0.5‰, respectively (Rau et al., 1990). At the study site, the contribution of picophytoplankton is maximal at periods of low total chlorophyll *a* biomass, that is to say in summer and fall, with contribution reaching more than 60% in September (Charles et al 2005). This, according to the findings of Rau et al. (1990), may to some extents explain the depletion in heavy isotopes measured in the SPOM fraction during the sampling, and so the gap between the bulk SPOM value and strict-filter feeding consumers which retain, sort and select particles differentially according to their size and nutritional quality (Dubois and Colombo, 2014, Cresson et al., 2016). As a consequence, even though this cannot dramatically change the general scheme of food source contributions, the comparison of particle sorting efficiency needs to be investigated to further understand interspecific variations in trophic niches among shipworm species (Cresson et al., 2016, Paalvast and van der Velde, 2013).

5. Conclusion

This study, involving alder wood, provides a first quantitative estimate of the contribution of food sources to the diet of *B. carinata*. Most of the assimilated carbon originated from the wood and N_2 fixers contributed significantly to nitrogen requirements of the shipworm. However, it must be stressed that in a previous study conducted on *Teredo navalis* (Paalvast and van der Velde 2013), the overwhelming amount of carbon and nitrogen was derived from SPOM rather than from the wood source. Availability of food sources may change over time and space between studies, but stable isotope composition of wood also varies according to tree species and each species of teredinids has its own traits of life. As a consequence, the relative importance of the symbiotic association could then be better appreciated by testing, on the one hand, several tree and shipworm species, and, on the other hand, by performing ^{13}C and ^{15}N labelling experiments to quantitatively estimate the C and N pathways within the different potential components of the shipworms diet.

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Tables and figures' captions

Table 1. Stable isotope compositions and C/N ratios of potential food sources; n, number of samples. SPOM: Suspended particulate organic matter, SD: Standard deviation.

Table 2. Stable isotope compositions and C/N ratios of consumers. Feeding modes are: Xylo, xylotrophy, SF, suspension-feeding; n, number of individuals; SD: Standard deviation.

Fig. 1. Carbon and nitrogen isotope compositions of potential food sources and consumers. The broken line indicates the $\delta^{15}N$ average value expected for products resulting from the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen. The ellipse indicates the range of theoretical expected $\delta^{15}N$ and $\delta^{13}C$ values for consumers of alder wood, considering trophic enrichments of 0.30‰ and 2.5‰ for $\delta^{13}C$ for $\delta^{15}N$, respectively. Dotted lines account for trophic shift of carbon and nitrogen.

Fig. 2. Bayesian mixing model dietary analyses for carbon (A) and nitrogen (B). Boxplots with 50 (in dark gray), 75 (in medium gray) and 95% (in light gray) credible intervals representing the proportion of *Alnus glutinosa*: Wood, suspended particulate organic matter: SPOM, and dissolved nitrogen: N_2 in the diet of the shipworm *Bankia carinata*.

Figure S1: Experimental setup. Image of the alder wood packs at the study site within the Bay of Banyuls-sur-Mer, Mediterranean Sea, France.

Table 1. Stable isotope compositions and C/N ratios of potential food sources; n, number of samples. SPOM: Suspended particulate organic matter, SD: Standard deviation.

Sources	Date or exposure duration in months	n	$\delta^{15}N$ (‰)	$\delta^{13}C$ (‰)	C/N
SPOM	June 9	3	2.4 ± 0.1	-24.5 ± 0.1	6.5 ± 0.2
	July 11	4	4.8 ± 0.5	-22.6 ± 0.1	5.8 ± 0.6
	Sept 12	3	3.9 ± 0.5	-23.7 ± 0.1	6.2 ± 0.8
	Oct 24	4	2.6 ± 0.3	-24.3 ± 0.7	9.6 ± 2.7
	Time integrated		3.4 ± 1.1	-23.8 ± 0.8	7.0 ± 1.7
Alder	0	5	-2.8 ± 0.7	-28.8 ± 0.5	158 ± 9
	2	4	-2.7 ± 0.1	-29.8 ± 0.1	195 ± 11
	4.5	4	-1.3 ± 0.5	-29.8 ± 0.3	157 ± 11
	Time integrated		-2.2 ± 0.8	-29.3 ± 0.5	170 ± 22

Table 2. Stable isotope compositions and C/N ratios of consumers. Feeding modes are: Xylo, xylotrophy, SF, suspension-feeding; n, number of individuals; SD: Standard deviation.

Class *species*	Feeding type	n	$\delta^{15}N$ (‰)	$\delta^{13}C$ (‰)	C/N
Bivalvia					
Bankia carinata	Xylo/SF	25	0.5 ± 0.4	-27.5 ± 0.6	8.3 ± 2.5
Mytilus galloprovincialis	SF	1	4.4 ± n.d.	-20.3	3.5 ± n.d.
Hiatella arctica	SF	2	4.0 ± 0.07	-20.1 ± 0.2	3.8 ± 0.2
Musculus subpictus	SF	1	4.1± n.d.	-20.8	4.0± n.d.
Polychaeta					
Serpula vermicularis	SF	4	4.9 ± 0.1	-20.1 ± 0.3	3.9 ± 0.1
Spirobranchus triqueter	SF	4	4.84± 0.2	-19.8 ± 0.2	3.9 ± 0.1
Ascidiacea					
Ascidia conchilega	SF	1	4.6 ± n.d.	-21.3 ± n.d.	4.9 ± n.d.

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