

Supplementary Material for **Roof Effect Hemoglobin May Have Evolved to Enhance General Tissue Oxygen Delivery**

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Materials and Methods

Experimental animals, holding conditions

Rainbow trout, (*O. mykiss*, mean wet body mass \pm SD: $1,291 \pm 390$ g, $N = 13$), obtained from Spring Valley Trout Farm (Langley, British Columbia, Canada), were maintained in outdoor aquatic facilities in the Department of Zoology at the University of British Columbia until used for experiments. Fish were held in 8,000 l tanks supplied with flow-through Vancouver dechlorinated municipal tap water (average 12°C) under a natural photoperiod at densities no greater than 10kg/m^3 (24). Fish were fed every other day to satiation using commercial trout pellets (Skretting, Orient 4-0), but food was withheld 24 h prior to experimentation. All protocols complied with the guidelines approved by the Canadian Council on Animal Care, protocol # A07-0080/A11-0235.

Surgical procedures

Rainbow trout are well described in terms of their Hb-O₂ transport characteristics, they possess a pronounced Root effect (12, 25-29), and they have anatomically distinct slow-twitch oxidative “red” muscle (RM) that appears to contain plasma-accessible CA (14, 15, 30-32). Therefore, we implanted fiber optic O₂ sensors into rainbow trout RM (Fig. S1) so that we could directly monitor RMPO₂ in real-time. To do this, fish were anaesthetized in $0.1\text{ g}\cdot\text{l}^{-1}$ MS-222 buffered with $0.1\text{ g}\cdot\text{l}^{-1}$ NaHCO₃, and then immediately transferred to a surgery table. Gills were continuously irrigated with appropriately chilled, aerated, dechlorinated freshwater containing diluted anaesthetic ($0.075\text{ g}\cdot\text{l}^{-1}$ MS-222 and NaHCO₃). An indwelling cannula (PE50) was surgically implanted into the dorsal aorta (DA) according to Soivio et al. (33), following which a fiber optic O₂ sensor was implanted into the red muscle (RM) as described in Fig. S1. A fiber optic O₂ sensor (PreSens; Precision Sensing GmbH, Loligo Systems ApS, Denmark), with a 10 mm tapered Teflon-coated tip was connected to an Oxy-4 micro four-channel DAQ-TEMP O₂ meter and signal amplifier (cat #OX11700 Loligo Systems ApS, Denmark) via RS-232 serial cable and calibrated in humidified 12°C air (100% saturation) and a saturated sodium sulfite (Na₂SO₃, Sigma-Aldrich cat. no. 239321; St. Louis, MO, USA) solution (0% saturation). Phase angles were recorded and integrated into the algorithms provided with the manufacturer’s software package, FibSoft™, for PC Windows. Guide marks were made with a permanent marker on the coated portion of the optode, see Fig. S1 for further details. Each calibrated optode remained soaking in heparinized Cortland’s saline (100 IU ml^{-1}) until it was surgically implanted into the fish as described below, similar to the protocol of McKenzie et al. (17).

The fish, with DA cannula in place, was repositioned on the surgery table, and irrigation tubes were moved from the opercula/gills into the buccal cavity exposing the left lateral side for optode insertion. Moist sponges and paper towels were used to cover the rest of the fish throughout the surgical procedure. See Fig. S1 for a detailed description. The position of the optode in the RM was confirmed *post-mortem* under a dissection microscope upon completion of the experiment, and each optode was removed and recalibrated to account for drift over the experimental period.

Following surgery, fish were transferred to a black Perspex box to recover, during which time RMPO₂ was continuously monitored using the manufacturer’s software. The DA cannula was flushed with heparinized (10 IU ml^{-1}) saline and then attached to a pre-

calibrated (as described above) stainless steel flow-through fiber optic O₂ sensor (FTCH-MICRO Loligo Systems ApS, Denmark) to measure arterial blood PO₂ during each blood-sampling interval as specified below. The open end of the DA cannula was filled with heparinized Cortland's saline, and sealed for the overnight recovery period. Both the RMPO₂ and arterial blood PO₂ sensors were reconnected to the Oxy-4 micro four-channel system. The RMPO₂ was logged every 2 min overnight, during which time fish were allowed to recover in black Perspex boxes in normoxic water.

Neuromuscular blockade and immobilization

Prior to experimentation, a baseline blood sample was collected from resting fish as described above. Then, fish were lightly anaesthetized over the duration of the following experimental protocol and fish were injected, via the DA, with a skeletal muscle relaxant, tubocurarine ((+)-tubocurarine chloride hydrate, Sigma-Aldrich cat. no. T2379; St. Louis, MO, USA) an anti-nicotinic, neuromuscular blocking drug (34-37). Fish were immobilized to reduce variations in muscle $\dot{M}O_2$ and reduce muscle activity (spontaneous activity in trout causes sudden large, prolonged changes in tissue O₂ recordings (17)) and to maintain the integrity and placement of the implanted optode during experimentation. It is understood that surgical procedures but not anaesthesia will elevate plasma catecholamines (38). Therefore it was assumed that these fish prior to, during, and following neuromuscular blockade would exhibit resting catecholamine levels because they were allowed overnight recovery from surgery. This was later confirmed upon plasma catecholamine analyses (Fig. S4).

Tubocurarine was prepared with Cortland's saline and administered for a final concentration of 0.1 mg ml⁻¹ in the fish (assuming 5% blood volume). The concentration of tubocurarine used was chosen to cause complete immobilization of the animal (37). However, this would also impede normal opercular movements, and therefore fish were force-ventilated (1,600 ml min⁻¹ kg⁻¹) in the black Perspex boxes during the experiments. This would also control for any changes in ventilation patterns that may have otherwise occurred during experimental treatments. Upon re-establishment of baseline physiological parameters (which ranged from 70-110 min), the experimental protocol commenced.

Experimental protocol

Once baseline RMPO₂ measurements had been recorded (Fig. 2, S3; Table S1), rainbow trout were exposed to an experimental series consisting of hypercarbia, normocarbia, C18, and hypercarbia with C18. Hypercarbic conditions (1.5% CO₂, balance air) were created in a header tank and regulated using a Cameron gas-mixer (Cameron, prototype U.S.A.). The PCO₂ (P_wCO₂) of the water flowing into the black Perspex box where experiments commenced was monitored continuously using a Clark-type PCO₂ electrode (Model #E201, Loligo Systems ApS, Denmark) and Radiometer PHM 71 Acid-Base Analyzer (Radiometer, Denmark). Fish were exposed to hypercarbia for approximately 20 min, during which time RMPO₂ was continuously monitored and logged every second. Following a 20-min hypercarbia exposure, blood was sampled for arterial blood PO₂, TO₂, pH_e, [Hb], Hct, whole blood TCO₂, plasma TCO₂ pH_i, and plasma catecholamines (described below, Fig. 2, S3, S4; Table S1). Then normocarbia was reinstated for at least 20 min, during which time RMPO₂ was monitored for

recovery. Upon recovery, blood was sampled and a bolus of C18 prepared in Cortland's saline and DMSO (20% by volume) was injected into the DA cannula to achieve a final concentration in the blood (assuming 5% blood volume) of 4 mg kg^{-1} or $200 \mu\text{M}$ ($404.87 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ molecular weight) (39, 40). RMPO₂ was continuously monitored, and following 20 min., blood was sampled. Fish were then re-exposed to hypercarbia, as described above, RMPO₂ was continuously monitored and blood was sampled after 20 min. All blood samples withdrawn ($\leq 9 \text{ ml}$ (15% of the total blood volume) over the course of the experiment) were replaced with an equal volume of Cortland's saline administered over the course of 1 min.

Experiment and sampling procedures

For each blood-sampling interval approximately 1.5 ml of whole blood was withdrawn from the DA through a flow-through O₂ optode (to measure arterial blood PO₂) and collected in an Eppendorf™ tube. Total O₂ (TO₂) was measured according to Tucker (41) in duplicate on 50 µl aliquots taken from the blood sample via gas-tight Hamilton™ syringe. Whole blood [Hb] (mM per tetramer) was measured by adding 10 µl of whole blood to 1 ml Drabkin's solution (Sigma-Aldrich cat. no. D5941; St. Louis, MO, USA), measuring absorbance at 540 nm, and applying a millimolar extinction coefficient of 11. Haematocrit was determined by centrifuging 60 µl of whole blood in heparinized micro-capillary tubes for 3 min at 17,000 g. Blood pH (pH_e) was measured using a thermostatted capillary pH electrode (model BMS 3 MK 2 Blood Microsystem), in conjunction with a PHM 84 meter (Radiometer, Denmark). Duplicate 50 µl aliquots of whole blood were analyzed for TCO₂ (model 965 Analyzer; Corning). The remaining blood was centrifuged (3 min at 17,000 g), and plasma was removed to measure plasma TCO₂. The remaining plasma was then flash frozen in liquid N₂ and stored at -80°C for later analysis of catecholamine concentrations by HPLC with electrochemical detection (42). The red blood cell pellet was frozen in liquid N₂ and pH_i was later measured, according to the freeze-thaw technique (43), using the BMS 3 Mk2 Blood Microsystem and PHM 84 meter. Unless noted, all assays were performed in triplicate, and the grand means were reported and statistically compared.

Characterizing C18 for use in rainbow trout

A modified version of the electrometric delta pH CA assay (44-48) was used to compare the effectiveness of C18 with those of known teleost CA sulfonamide inhibitors (acetazolamide and benzolamide). The baseline reaction rates for the uncatalyzed and CA-catalyzed (using bovine CA) CO₂ hydration reactions were determined. The uncatalyzed reaction rate was significantly slower than CA-catalyzed rates ($p < 0.001$; Fig. S6A), and all three inhibitors, C18, benzolamide, and acetazolamide also significantly slowed the CA-catalyzed reaction (Fig. S6B). Based on these trials, a C18 concentration of $200 \mu\text{M}$ was used for experiments in this study, as this concentration most closely resembled the inhibition profiles for benzolamide and acetazolamide, where concentrations commonly used to inhibit CA *in vivo* and *in vitro* for rainbow trout have been used (Fig. S6).

To determine the degree to which C18 permeated the RBCs, a bolus of stock C18 prepared in Cortland's saline and DMSO (20% by volume, as used *in vivo*) was added to rainbow trout blood (collected from a separate group of fish 24h following cannulation,

techniques described above), maintained at 12°C, and equilibrated with 100% air in Eschweiler tonometers (final C18 concentration of 200 µM). A 1-ml sample was withdrawn after 30, 60, 150, 210, and 260 min and centrifuged. The resulting pellet was rinsed with physiological saline, and later analyzed to determine the degree to which RBC CA activity was inhibited if C18 had entered the RBC according to the methods of (49, 50).

To ensure that C18 would not enter the RBC over the duration of this study, the time required for C18 to significantly impair RBC CA activity was determined (49, 50). First, the catalytic rate of CA in rainbow trout RBCs (153.6 ± 9.1 µM and 7.2×10^4 s⁻¹, expressed as K_{cat}) was measured; this value was assumed to represent 100% RBC CA concentration and activity. Blood samples (collected as described above) were then incubated with C18 for up to 260 min. and the catalytic rate of CA was measured (Fig. S7). Following incubation of RBCs in the presence of C18, RBC CA K_{cat} was not significantly reduced at 30 min (86% (6.1×10^4 s⁻¹) but was significantly reduced at 60, 150, 210, and 260-min (73, 63, 53, and 43% activity, respectively) ($F(5, 3) = 23.90$, p<0.001; Fig. S7). Thus, minimal C18 would be expected to enter the RBC over the 30 min exposure duration employed in this study.

Plasma catecholamines

Catecholamine levels, noradrenaline (NA), adrenaline (AD), and combined, were measured in rainbow trout plasma samples collected as described above (N= 7-11). After this time, 1.5 ml of blood was collected from each fish into heparinized syringes, withdrawn into an Eppendorf™ tube, centrifuged at 6,000 rpm for 3 min, plasma removed and expired into a separate Eppendorf™ tube, and immediately frozen in liquid N₂. All samples were shipped on dry ice to be analyzed by Dr. S.F. Perry at the University of Ottawa, Canada.

Plasma catecholamine levels were determined on alumina extracted samples (75-200 µl) using HPLC with electrochemical detection (42) and 3,4-dihydroxybenzylamine hydrobromide (DHBA) as an internal standard. The HPLC incorporated a Varian ProStar 410 solvent delivery system (Varian Chromatography Systems, Walnut Creek, CA) coupled to a Decade II electrochemical detector and VT-03 electrochemical flow cell (Antec USA, Hanover MD).

To compare these (Fig. S4) with true resting catecholamine levels, an additional group of fish (300-600 g wet body mass) was equipped with a DA cannula, as described above, and allowed to recover for 24-48 h (51-53). Plasma catecholamines for these fish were 4.9 ± 2.8 and 0.4 ± 0.2 nM for noradrenaline (NA) and adrenaline (AD) respectively (N=13).

Calculations and statistical analyses

Data are presented as mean ±SEM. Mean cell haemoglobin concentration (MCHC) was calculated as Hb/(Hct/100). Haemoglobin saturation (SO₂) was calculated by dividing TO₂ (after subtracting physically dissolved O₂ according to Boutilier et al. (54)) by the theoretical maximum carrying capacity of the rinsed RBCs based upon the tetrameric Hb concentration obtained spectrophotometrically according to Tucker (41). Blood PCO₂ was calculated from plasma TCO₂ and pH_e as described previously (55) using the CO₂ solubility coefficient and pK published for rainbow trout (54) and by

rearranging the Henderson-Hasselbalch equation. All PO₂ (RM and arterial) data were saved as text files and analyzed using Acqknowledge® Data Acquisition Software (Version 3.7.3, BIOPAC Systems, Inc.). Catecholamine concentrations for both noradrenaline (NA) and adrenaline (AD) were reported for each individual fish at each sampling interval (Fig. S4) and statistically compared to the mean resting levels derived from the parallel study performed on resting fish 24-48h post-cannulation (n=13, 4.9 ±2.8 and 0.4 ±0.2 nM, respectively). All other data were compared statistically between treatments, and statistical differences were detected via paired t-test or repeated measures ANOVA and, when necessary, a post-hoc Holm-Sidak multiple comparisons test. All statistical analyses were conducted using SigmaStat for Windows 3.5.0.54 (Systat Software, Inc., 2006), and all analyses were interpreted using $\alpha < 0.05$ to determine statistical significance.

Supplementary Text

Techniques used

The response to hypercarbia in this study was as predicted, and changes in blood PCO₂ and pH were relatively modest and consistent with those reported in previous studies. The pH changes that Smith and Jones (56) demonstrated in hypercarbic rainbow trout (from 7.99 to 7.79) were similar to the pH changes observed here after 20-30 min. However, a 20-30 min hypercarbia exposure decreased arterial blood pH_e from 8.09 to 7.79 and increased blood PCO₂ from 1.7 to 4.0 mmHg (Fig. 2, S3; Table S1). McKendry and Perry (57) observed that arterial blood pH decreased to 7.43, and blood PCO₂ increased to 6.15 mmHg during a similar 20-min 1.5% CO₂ hypercarbic exposure. The changes induced in this study were consistent with previous studies on non-immobilized fish and only slightly below those expected at 90% U_{crit} or post-exercise for rainbow trout (58, 59). Thus, disturbances to blood acid-base status of the magnitude chosen in this study are likely encountered *in vivo* in rainbow trout and therefore the Root effect could enhance tissue O₂ delivery under such conditions.

While hypercarbia typically induces hyperventilation in elasmobranchs and teleosts (60-64), we chose to control for this by immobilizing and force-ventilating the fish. In this study, fish were force-ventilated at a water flow rate of approximately 1,600 ml min⁻¹ kg⁻¹, a rate 6-fold greater than that of previously measured hypercarbia-exposed fish (56), but this was necessary to recover tissue PO₂ following tubocurarine injection.

Hypercarbia was also chosen as the treatment to induce an acid-base disturbance because it has only minor, if any, affects on metabolic rate (65). Therefore, any changes in RMPO₂ could more easily be detected over an unchanging background O₂ consumption rate. Ultimately, this preparation was chosen to maximize the chances of observing the proposed phenomenon.

Verifying the role of plasma-accessible carbonic anhydrase

Results from this study indirectly support the presence of a plasma-accessible CA in rainbow trout RM. Hypercarbia increased RMPO₂ with a plasma-accessible CA-dependent mechanism (Fig. 2, 3, S3, S5). The C18 inhibitor does not enter the RBC for at least 30 min, and by 60 min, at least 75% of RBC CA activity still remains functional, which was well within the duration over which experiments were completed following

C18 injection (Fig. S7). Until this study, C18 had only been used in rats, and with great success. C18 is a potent CA inhibitor (Fig. S2), relatively impermeant to RBC membranes, and does not affect other physiological variables *in vivo* (66). Benzolamide, another low-molecular weight CA inhibitor that has been commonly used in fish, easily permeates the rat RBC such that after 2 h, the final concentration in the rat RBCs was 15,500-times the trace concentration of C18 (66). Successful use of C18 in fish is a great advance because to date localizing and determining function of plasma-accessible CA isoforms has been difficult in fish, despite their ubiquity among vertebrates (67, 68). Further research is necessary to localize and characterize these functionally significant CA isoforms.

Modeling the benefit to tissue oxygen delivery

To date, only two studies have monitored real-time RMPO₂ in a teleost. Both provided evidence that tissue O₂ delivery may be enhanced relative to other vertebrates, in part due to the presence of Root effect Hbs. RMPO₂ was measured in trout in normoxia and mild hypoxia, and during both sustained and exhaustive exercise (17). The RMPO₂ values (between 50 and 60 mmHg) were consistent with the values reported here (Fig. 2, 3, S3), being significantly higher than those in mammals (25-35 mmHg; (2, 3, 69-72), despite similar arterial and mixed venous blood PO₂ values (3, 17, 73, 74). Especially compared to rats and humans (2, 3, 70-72, 75), RMPO₂ is consistently high in teleost fishes such as the trout. Furthermore, RMPO₂ remains elevated during stress (hypoxia, exercise, and hypercarbia) (present study and (17)) and above P_aO₂ (approximately 20 mmHg; (73)), despite decreases in P_aO₂. All of these observations are associated with the presence of a Root effect Hb (17).

Given the substantial (31 mmHg) increase in RMPO₂ following exposure to hypercarbia, it is clear that a mild acidosis in the presence of a pH-sensitive Hb (Root effect) and plasma-accessible CA can increase the driving force for O₂ diffusion and potentially benefit tissue O₂ delivery. The *degree* to which O₂ delivery may be enhanced, however, is more difficult to determine. Changes in RMPO₂ at any given time or during any experimental condition will be influenced by myriad factors including tissue metabolic rate ($\dot{M}O_2$), tissue perfusion rate, and changes in Hb-O₂ affinity within the tissue. Assuming neither tissue $\dot{M}O_2$ nor tissue perfusion changed in this study – because fish were immobilized (to abolish skeletal muscle activity and variations in muscle $\dot{M}O_2$) and force-ventilated (to ensure constant P_aO₂) – the increase in RMPO₂ during hypercarbia likely reflected a right shift in the oxygen equilibrium curve (OEC) at the level of the muscle. In a similar experimental preparation where resting dogs were artificially ventilated and immobilized, arterial injection of an allosteric modifier of Hb-O₂ affinity (RSR13) resulted in a 12 mmHg increase in blood P₅₀ (PO₂ at which the blood is 50% saturated with O₂) which in turn was associated with a 9 mmHg increase in mean muscle PO₂ (76). These results are consistent with the assumption that, in a preparation of this nature, a change in blood P₅₀ (and thus Hb-O₂ affinity) will manifest as an increase in muscle PO₂. In the present study, we did not measure tissue perfusion but, given that catecholamines were not significantly elevated over published resting values, it is unlikely that hypercarbia had an effect (57, 77) and there was no difference in RMPO₂ between control values and C18+hypercarbia. Thus, assuming the increase in RMPO₂ during exposure to hypercarbia was predominantly associated with the right shift of the

OEC within the RBC during capillary transit, the potential benefit to O₂ delivery can be interpolated by plotting arterial and RMPO₂ values onto the OECs of rainbow trout blood incubated at various CO₂ tensions and thus pH values (re-plotted from (12); Fig. S8).

Modeling O₂ extraction from the OEC in this manner would normally apply to differences between P_aO₂ and P_vO₂; RMPO₂ is lower than P_aO₂, and while higher than P_vO₂, probably more closely resembles P_vO₂ values and will be regarded as such to model O₂ delivery here (Fig. 6). Arterial O₂ content did not differ significantly among any treatments and is indicated by “a” in Fig S8. The mean RMPO₂ was 45-47 mmHg during normocarbia, which is very similar to that following C18 injection with and without hypercarbia. Assuming tissue M_{O₂} and perfusion did not change in any of these treatments, and there was no change in the position of the OEC used *in vivo*, all these RMPO₂ data points (normocarbia and C18 with and without hypercarbia) would fall on the OEC at the position labeled “M” (Fig. S8). This would correspond to an “a” to “M” O₂ extraction of approximately 22% (as per the vertical distance between the two points, indicated by the corresponding arrow) (Fig. S8). The benefit to tissue O₂ delivery associated with hypercarbia (i.e. in the absence of C18) can then be estimated. If it is assumed that tissue M_{O₂}, perfusion, and thus “a” to “M” O₂ extraction remain constant (65) whereby the resulting RMPO₂ value of 77 mmHg can be traced horizontally from “M” to “M_{CO₂}” (Fig. S8). This point falls nicely onto the right-shifted OEC from a previous study when rainbow trout blood was incubated under 4 mmHg (0.5%) CO₂ (12) (Fig. S8). The degree to which O₂ delivery could be enhanced can then be estimated by moving down this new OEC to the point that RMPO₂ is 45-47 mmHg, corresponding with M’ on the model – the same driving force for O₂ delivery as in the other treatments (Fig. S8). Now, the “a” to “M” O₂ extraction is increased to 39%, nearly double that described above (22%) (Fig. S8). Under a more severe acidosis, catecholamines may be released to stimulate RBC βNHE and the right shift of the OEC in the presence of plasma-accessible CA at the tissue may be even greater, further enhancing conditions for O₂ delivery corresponding to M’ or M’’ based on the preceding assumptions and OECs previously generated for this species (12) (Fig. S8). Ultimately, this analysis serves to illustrate that the 31 mmHg increase in RMPO₂ during exposure to a moderate stressor could almost double tissue O₂ delivery with no change in tissue perfusion. This is a remarkable accomplishment for this system unique to teleosts, especially because similar analyses in mammalian systems reveal that the increase in oxygen delivery may be only 5% (2, 3, 12, 69, 70). This may be particularly important to increase aerobic metabolism in aquatic species during exposure to environmental stress or exercise and to speed up post-exercise recovery, for example, following a predator-prey encounter or during long, upstream migrations as exhibited in Pacific salmon (78).

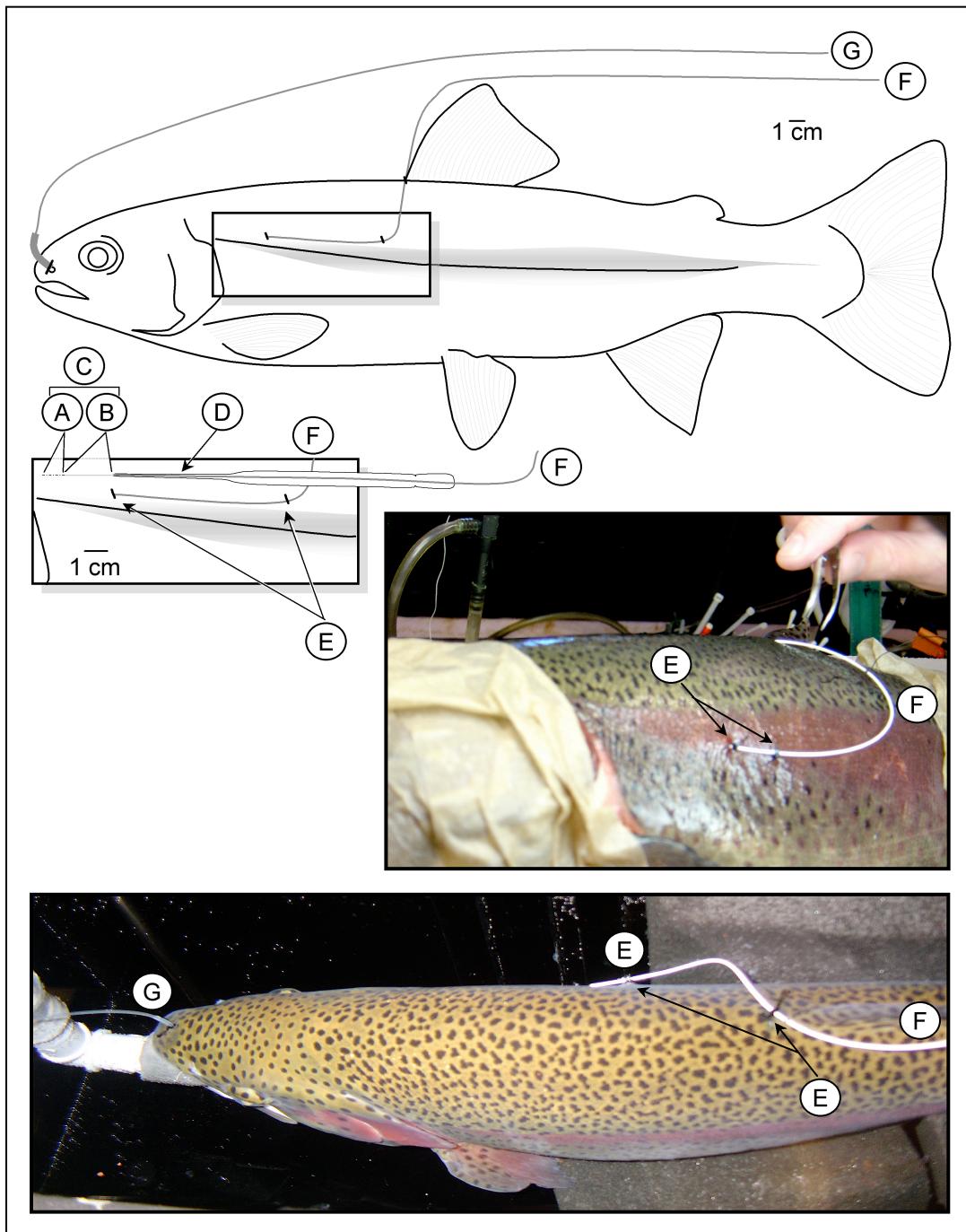
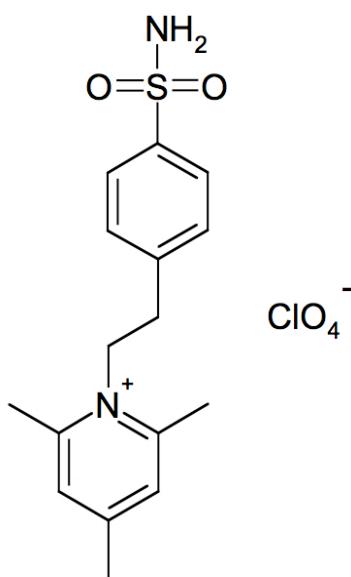


Fig. S1.

A schematic and photographic representation of the surgical procedure employed to implant the fiber optic O₂ sensor into the red muscle (RM) of rainbow trout and the recovery apparatus. First, a small incision was made in the skin just dorsal to the lateral line and 40 mm posterior to the periphery of the opercular plate to reveal the underlying

thin layer of RM. Then, the fiber optic O₂ sensor with a 10 mm tapered Teflon-coated tip (A) and an additional 25 mm of the coated portion of the optode (B) with guide marks made at 5 mm as well as 20 mm beyond the exposed glass, was secured inside a sterile glass Pasteur pipette (D). Two sutures (E) were secured to the tissue, dorsal to the lateral line, approximately 20 and 80 mm posterior to the periphery of the operculum. A third suture was prepared on the dorsal side of the fish, immediately anterior to the dorsal fin (E). The exposed glass tip of the sensor (A) as well as 10 mm of the coated part of the lead (B) were collectively (C) advanced under the skin into the RM for approximately 10 mm ensuring that the blunted end was flush with the underside of the skin to avoid damaging the musculature. Gentle pressure was applied to the skin atop the implanted optode, and the glass pipette was withdrawn and the optode was secured with the sutures (E) (as seen in upper photograph). The previously implanted DA cannula (G) was connected to a 1cc tuberculin syringe and flushed periodically with heparinized Cortland's saline. The entire lead and fiber optic O₂ sensor (F) was connected to an Oxy-4 micro four-channel DAQ-TEMP O₂ meter and signal amplifier via RS-232 serial cable (not shown). Post-surgery, fish were transferred to a black Perspex box to recover overnight, during which time they were force ventilated through Tygon® tubing (12.7mm inner diameter, 18mm outer diameter; bottom photograph) until regular opercular movement resumed. This force-ventilation apparatus (bottom photograph) was used again on fish following exposure to the neuromuscular blockade just prior to the experimental procedure.



C18

Fig. S2

Structure of compound-18 (C18), the low molecular weight (404.87 g mol^{-1}), membrane-impermeant, sulphonamide. The CA inhibitor, C18, has been demonstrated to inhibit human (cloned) CA I and II isozymes as well as CA IV isolated from bovine lung microsomes (Inhibition, $K_i = 3, 13$, and 10 nM respectively) (16).

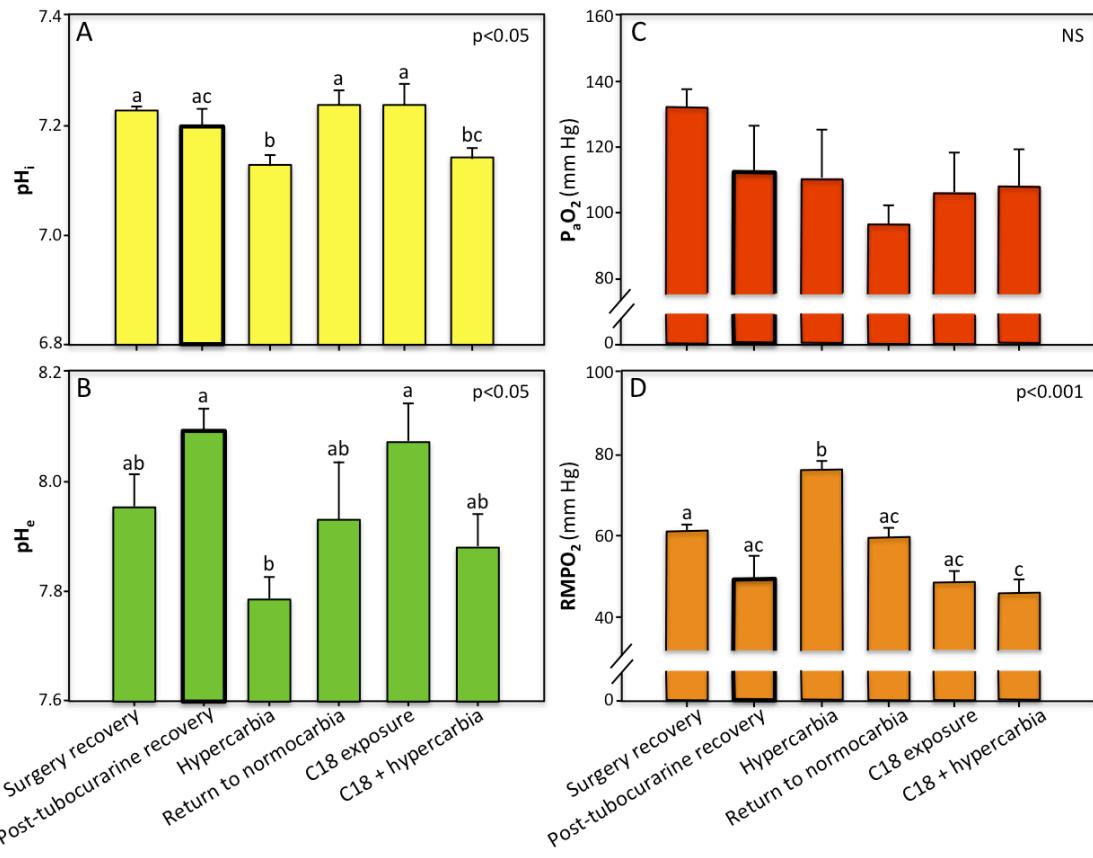


Fig. S3

The effect of hypercarbia, membrane-impermeant carbonic anhydrase inhibitor (C18) and combined hypercarbia and C18 on haematological and O₂-related variables. Panels are as follows: (A) intracellular pH (pH_i), (B) extracellular pH (pH_e), (C) arterial PO₂ (P_aO₂ in mmHg), and (D) red muscle PO₂ (RMP_{O₂} in mmHg). As a reference, post-tubocurarine recovery data are outlined with a bold outline, as these data represent the new baseline values for each variable to which subsequent treatment values are compared. Lower-case letters that differ demarcate significant differences between treatment groups within a panel. Statistical significance is indicated with p-values, if applicable (non-significance is indicated "NS"). All data are presented as means ± SEM, N= 7-11 per treatment.

Statistical significance (repeated measures ANOVA) was assessed using $\alpha < 0.05$.

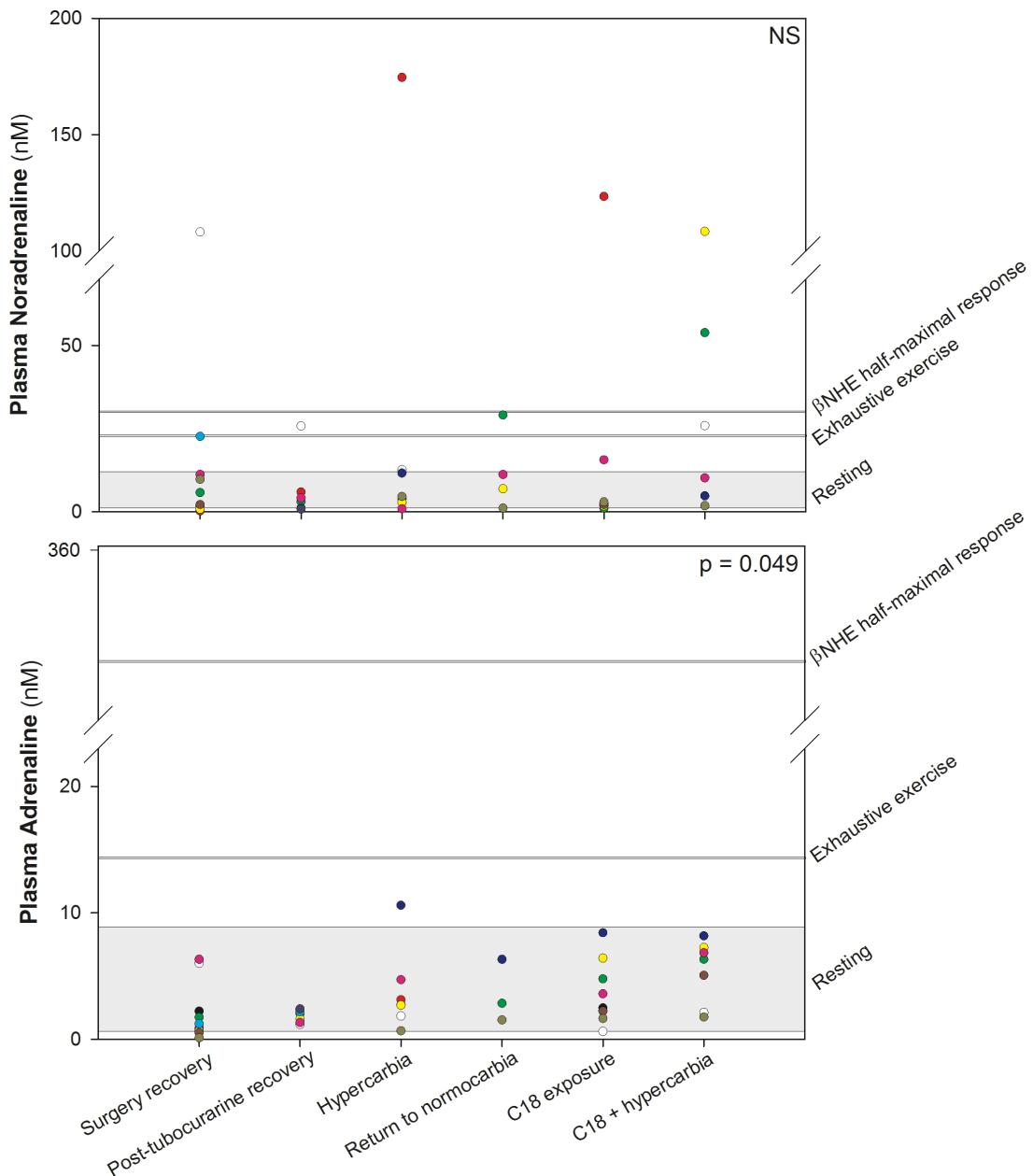


Fig. S4

Plasma noradrenaline (NA) and adrenaline (AD) levels (nM) in individual rainbow trout (a single colour represents the same animal) upon recovery from surgery (starting conditions), post-tubocurarine recovery, and following each experimental treatment. $N=7-11$ per treatment. Published NA and AD levels for resting fish (indicated by the bottom gray bar), following exhaustive exercise, and values associated with β NHE half maximal response are indicated by gray lines as indicated on the right y-axis for both panels (see text above for references and further details). Statistical significance (relative to resting levels measured in this study: 4.9 ± 2.85 nM and 0.42 ± 0.23 nM respectively) is indicated in the top right corner of each panel.

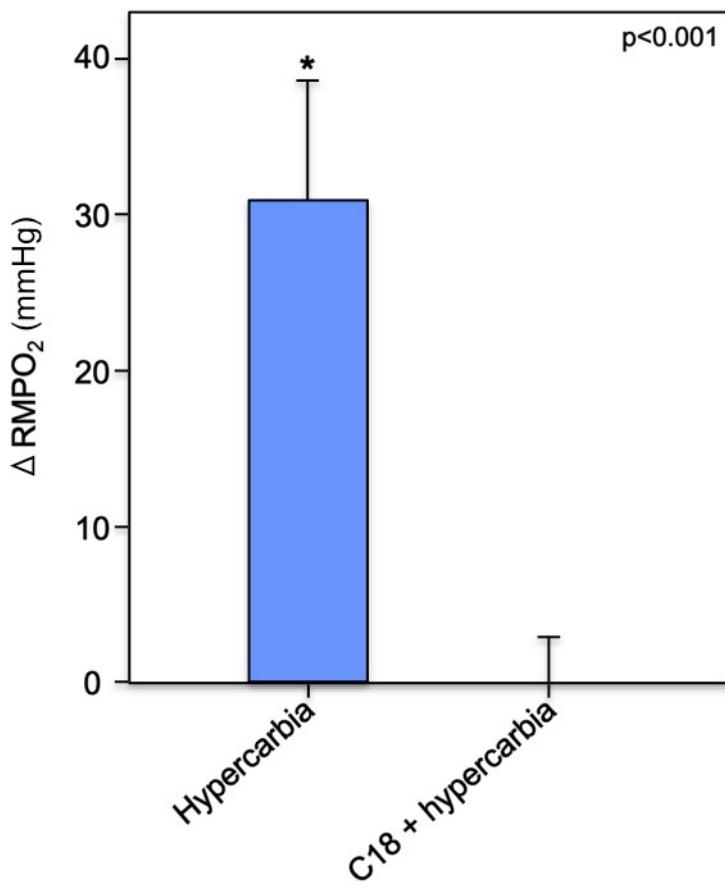


Fig. S5

The absolute change in RMPO₂ upon exposure to hypercarbia before and after carbonic anhydrase (CA) was inhibited. An asterisk demarcates a significant difference from post-tubocurarine recovery values ($p<0.001$).

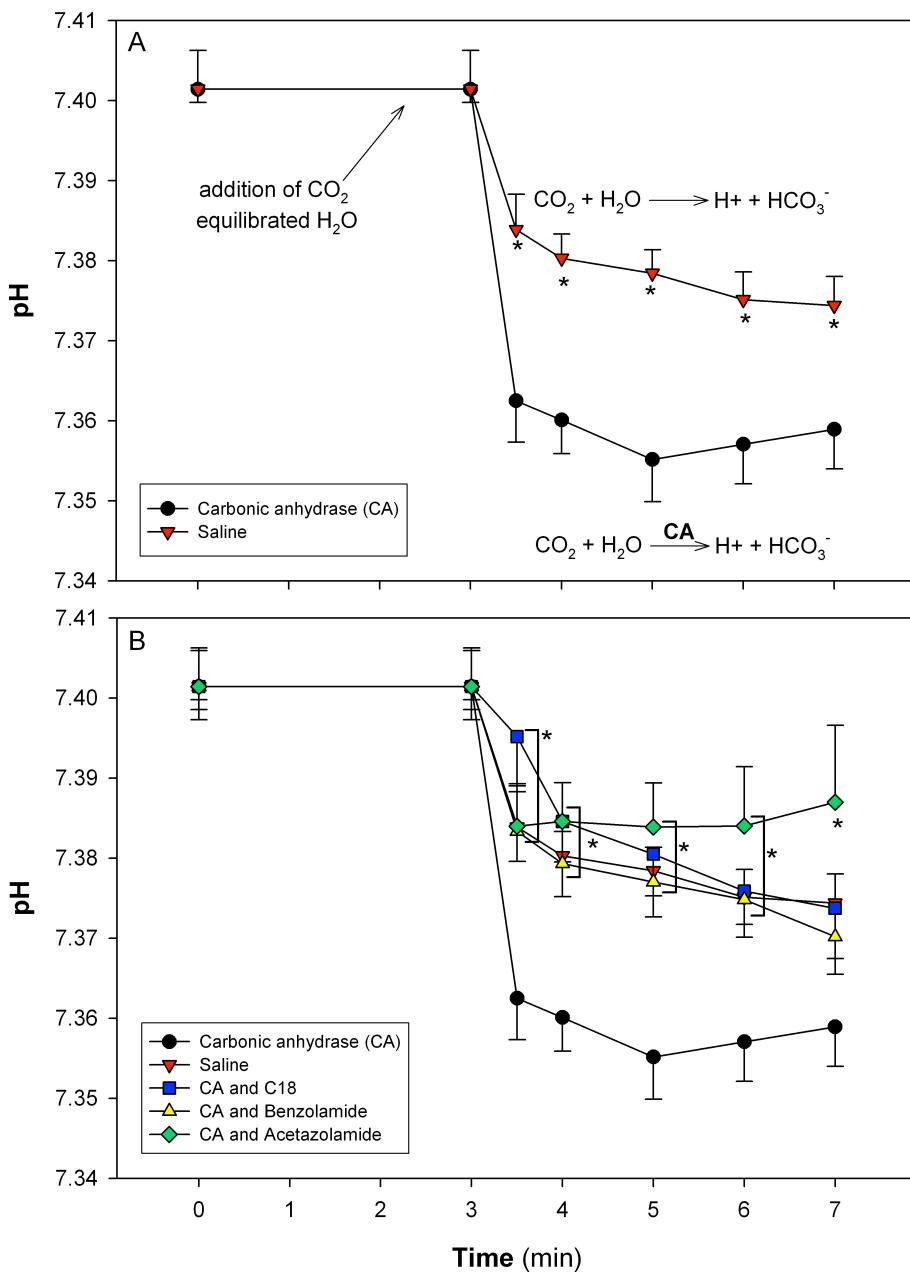


Fig. S6

The electrometric delta pH carbonic anhydrase (CA) assay reporting the change in pH over time following addition of CO_2 equilibrated water in the presence (solid circles) and absence (red inverted triangles) of carbonic anhydrase (CA) (Panel A) and with CA in the presence of CA inhibitors, C18 (blue squares), benzolamide (yellow triangles), and acetazolamide, (green diamonds), final concentrations 200 μM , 94 μM , and 100 mM respectively (Panel B). Data are mean \pm SEM. Upon the addition of CO_2 -equilibrated water at $t = 3$ min (x-axis), asterisks represent significant differences from the CA-catalyzed reaction at 3.5, 4, 5, 6, and 7 min.

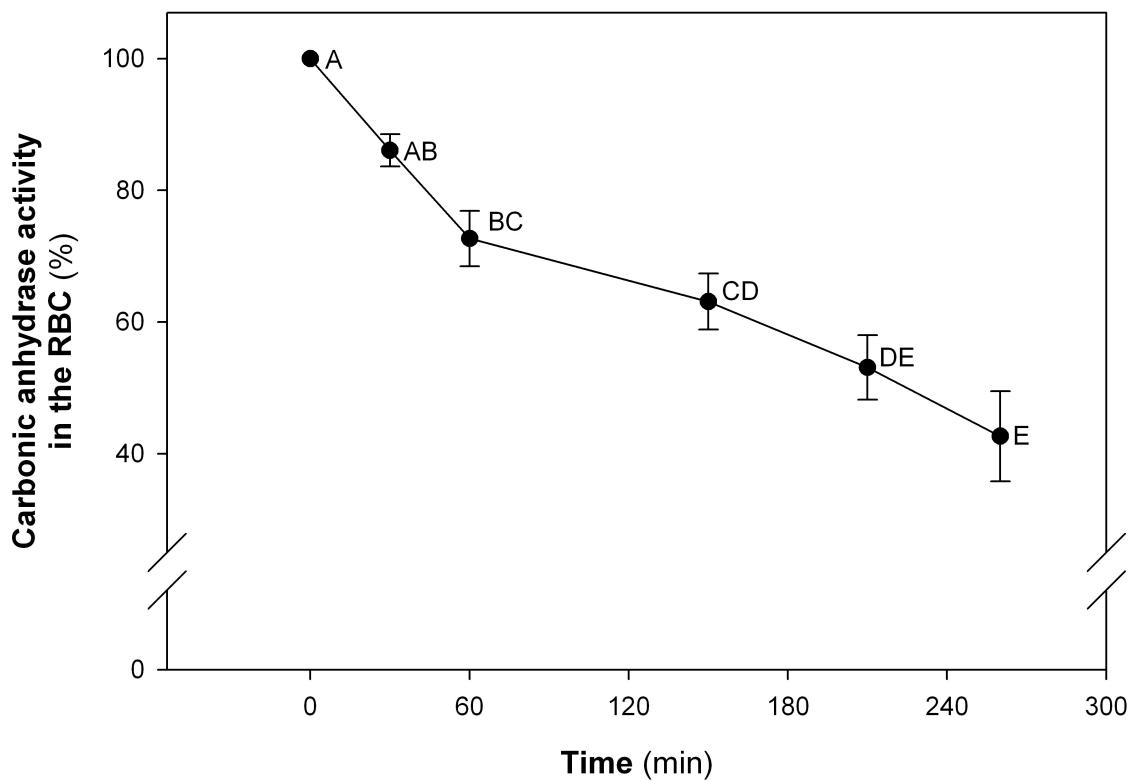


Fig. S7

Red blood cell (RBC) CA activity in rinsed RBCs exposed to C18 (final concentration 200 μM) in vitro. Letters that differ indicate significant differences, symbols indicate mean \pm SEM. Note: RBC CA activity is not significantly reduced until 60 min following exposure to C18.

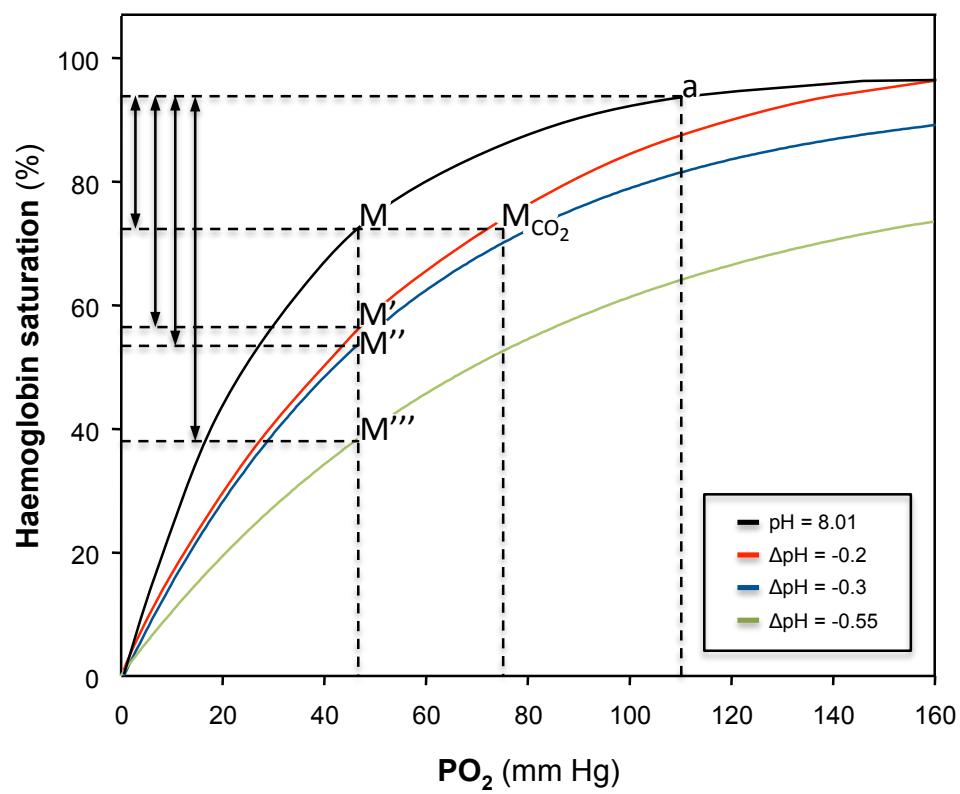


Fig. S8

A model depicting the degree to which O_2 delivery is enhanced as estimated from the results obtained in this study and assuming constant tissue metabolic rate (\dot{M}_{O_2}) and perfusion of the fish (see above section on “modeling the benefit for oxygen delivery” for details).

Table S1.

The effect of hypercarbia, membrane-impermeant carbonic anhydrase inhibitor (C18) and combined hypercarbia and C18 on haematological and CO₂-related variables.

Haemoglobin concentration, [Hb]; mean cell haemoglobin concentration, MCHC; red blood cell, RBC; total CO₂, TCO₂. Lower-case letters that differ denote significant differences among treatment groups within a given physiological variable. As a reference, post-tubocurarine recovery data are outlined with a bold black line, as these data represent the new baseline values for each variable to which all subsequent values are compared. All data are presented as means ±SEM, N= 7-11 per treatment, and statistical significance was assessed via repeated measures ANOVA and using $\alpha < 0.05$.

		Treatment				
	Surgery recovery	Baseline Post-tubocurarine recovery	Hypercarbia	Return to normocarbia	C18 exposure	C18 + hypercarbia
[Hb] (mM)	1.03 ^a ±0.10	1.35 ^{ab} ±0.06	1.08 ^{ab} ±0.15	1.56 ^b ±0.11	1.26 ^{ab} ±0.15	1.12 ^{ab} ±0.08
Hematocrit (%)	25.93 ±2.37	31.22 ±1.45	31.61 ±3.25	34.62 ±1.30	25.87 ±1.66	28.28 ±2.79
MCHC (mM)	4.34 ±0.83	4.44 ±0.22	3.64 ±0.55	4.54 ±0.64	4.25 ±0.29	3.68 ±0.48
RBC TCO₂ (mM)	3.2 ^{ab} ±1.1	0.9 ^a ±0.5	2.8 ^{ab} ±0.3	1.9 ^{ab} ±0.6	1.8 ^{ab} ±0.9	4.4 ^b ±0.9
Plasma TCO₂ (mM)	9.9 ±0.6	9.7 ±0.8	11.2 ±0.8	9.8 ±2.3	10.0 ±1.1	11.4 ±0.9
Blood PCO₂ (mm Hg)	2.4 ^{ab} ±0.2	1.7 ^a ±0.1	4.0 ^c ±0.3	2.5 ^{ab} ±0.6	1.8 ^a ±0.2	3.3 ^b ±0.3

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