

De novo transcriptome sequencing and analysis of freshwater snail (Radix balthica) to discover genes and pathways affected by exposure to oxazepam

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Abstract Pharmaceuticals are increasingly found in aquatic ecosystems due to the non-efficiency of waste water treatment plants. Therefore, aquatic organisms are frequently exposed to a broad diversity of pharmaceuticals. Freshwater snail Radix balthica has been chosen as model to study the effects of oxazepam (psychotropic drug) on developmental stages ranging from trochophore to hatching. In order to provide a global insight of these effects, a transcriptome deep sequencing has been performed on exposed embryos. Eighteen libraries were sequenced, six libraries for three conditions: control, exposed to the lowest oxazepam concentration with a phenotypic effect (delayed hatching) (TA) and exposed to oxazepam concentration found in freshwater (TB). A total of 39,759,772 filtered raw reads were assembled into 56,435 contigs having a mean length of 1579.68 bp and mean depth of 378.96 reads. 44.91% of the contigs have at least one annotation. The differential expression analysis between the control condition and the two exposure conditions revealed 146 contigs differentially expressed of which 144 for TA and two for TB. 34.0% were annotated with biological function. There were four mainly impacted processes: two cellular signalling systems (Notch and JNK) and two biosynthesis pathways (Polyamine and

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Catecholamine pathways). This work reports a large-scale analysis of differentially transcribed genes of R. balthica exposed to oxazepam during egg development until hatching. In addition, these results enriched the de novo database of potential ecotoxicological models.

Keywords Ecotoxicology · RNA sequencing · Pharmaceutical \cdot Differential analysis \cdot *Radix balthica*

Introduction

Aquatic organisms are frequently exposed to a great diversity of chemicals suspended in water or adsorbed onto substrates. Among these compounds, pharmaceuticals are a class of emerging environmental contaminants increasingly found in aquatic ecosystems. These pollutants are released in the environment mainly via Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) effluents. Several studies have demonstrated that pharmaceuticals are not completely removed by WWTP, their elimination being dependent on the specific treatment methods used (Calisto and Esteves [2009](#page-11-0); Yuan et al. [2013](#page-13-0)) but also on their abundance in the waste water, their pharmacokinetics, and their physical and chemical properties (Loos et al. [2013;](#page-12-0) Chen et al. [2015](#page-11-0)). Among pharmaceuticals, psychiatric drugs are the most frequently detected in aquatic environments (Fong and Ford [2014\)](#page-12-0). Among the molecules, anxiolytics are a frequently prescribed class in which benzodiazepines such as oxazepam and carbamazepine are the most commonly used (Brodin et al. [2013\)](#page-11-0). They are frequently detected in WWTP effluents and surface water. As an example, they have been found in 27 to 100% of French freshwaters (Idder et al. [2013;](#page-12-0) Bouissou-Schurtz

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et al. [2014](#page-11-0)) and their concentrations are ranged from 161 ng.L⁻¹ (Bouissou-Schurtz et al. [2014](#page-11-0)) to 816 ng.L⁻¹ (Chiffre et al. [2016\)](#page-11-0). The presence of these compounds may have a short and/or long term (depending on the compounds release and persistence characteristics) impact on freshwater biodiversity (Sanchez et al. [2011](#page-12-0)).

In studies on aquatic ecosystems, molluscs, including snails, are commonly used to evaluate pollutant effects (Cheung and Lam [1998](#page-11-0); Coeurdassier et al. [2003](#page-11-0); Byrne et al. [2009;](#page-11-0) Das and Khangarot [2010](#page-12-0); Coutellec et al. [2013](#page-12-0)). Our study used the pond snail Radix balthica (Linnaeus 1758, Basommatophora, Pulmonata), as an experimental model since it is present in many French rivers and European water bodies (Seddon et al. [2013\)](#page-13-0). We studied the embryonic and larval stages because of their greater sensitivity to contaminants compared to the adult snails (Gomot [1998\)](#page-12-0). Several works have documented the phenotypic impact of contaminant exposure on Lymnaea such as Lymnaea stagnalis. Some of these studies involved monitoring targeted biomarkers such as activity of the detoxification enzymes or expression of their encoding genes (e.g., cytochrome P450 (CYP450), glutathione-Stransferase (GST)) to assess the biological effects of pollutants (Bouétard et al. [2013;](#page-11-0) Gust et al. [2013](#page-12-0); Bonnafé et al. [2015](#page-11-0)). They revealed an impact on one or more enzymes of detoxification system, while impacts on other networked functions were not demonstrated. It is also becoming necessary to use approaches which provide wider views of these effects. Interesting works have focused on genes expression of different aquatic organisms in responses to a pollutant or environmental changes (Wang et al. [2009;](#page-13-0) Bouétard et al. [2012\)](#page-11-0). All these global transcriptomic works shown many impacted genes revealing potential key functions perturbations. Although very few analyses are available to establish a pattern of impacted genes or functions. The reproducibility of such studies is also challenging since the methods used for bioinformatics treatments have not been normalized and most studies apply different inhouse command lines. Otherwise, the access to a reference genome of model organism defines the power and the depth of the analyses. Despite the absence of a sequenced genome that decreases depth and power of the analyses, the transcriptomic studies can yield precious information's on transcriptome sequences for further research such as targeting RT-PCR or even in cladistics. Radix balthica presents the advantage of spawning fertilised eggs in a gelatinous mass giving access to complete embryonic development, from the two-cell stage to the hatchling (Sarker et al. [2007](#page-12-0); Pande [2010](#page-12-0)).

In this current work, we characterized the transcriptomic profiles of freshly hatched snails previously exposed to oxazepam solution during their embryonic development. Rather than focusing on well-studied biomarkers and

molecular pathways associated to drug responses, our aim was to identify new candidates by comparing transcriptome profiles of snails exposed to oxazepam solution at 0.815 and $10 \mu g.L^{-1}$ to snails in a control condition. The dose of $0.815 \mu g.L^{-1}$ represent the surface water concentration of oxazepam as previously described in the PSYCHEAU project manuscript 2014 (Unpublished data), and the higher one is the lowest concentration for which a phenotypic effect was previously observed on Japanese medaka Oryzias latipes larvae (Chiffre et al. [2016\)](#page-11-0). The transcriptome profiles were generated by RNA-sequencing with an Illumina $HiSeq^{TM}$ 2000 sequencing system and were then compared to highlight the differentially expressed (DE) genes in each condition. This study gave us the global impact of oxazepam on the R. balthica transcriptome.

Materials and methods

Animals and oxazepam exposure experiment

The experimental R. balthica were obtained from the River Caussel (Albi, France, latitude: 43.931157; longitude: 2.167686) in June 2014 and acclimated for 1 week prior to collecting the egg masses. They were reared in a 40 L tank with aerated reconstituted AFNOR water (Gomot [1998](#page-12-0)) $(Na HCO₃ 200 mg.L⁻¹$; $CaCl₂.2H₂O$ 297 mg. L^{-1} : $MgCl_2.6H_2O \ 167 mg.L^{-1}$; anhydrous $K_2SO_4 \ 26 mg.L^{-1}$) and river freshwater (v/v) at a temperature of 20 ± 1 °C. During the acclimation period, the snails were fed with organic lettuce ad libitum under day/night photoperiod of 14/10 h.

The oxazepam used for the experiment was purchased from Alsachim (Strasbourg, France). A minimal concentration of ethanol (0.001%) was used to facilitate powder dissolution. One control condition with 0.001% ethanol supplemented AFNOR water and two concentrations, 10 μ g.L⁻¹ (TA) and 0.815 μ g.L⁻¹ (TB), the effective concentration and the environmental concentration respectively, were used for RNA extraction and sequencing. After 1 week of acclimation, egg masses laid were collected, and only the trochophore stage selected. Five egg masses were dissected to form a single egg pool. To follow embryonic development, each egg was placed into a different well of a 96 well plate. Eggs were randomly distributed into three experimental groups (control, TA and TB) with 90 individuals per group.

Sampling and total RNA extraction

Six replicates of ten neonate snails (not older than 24 h) for each condition (control, treated TA, treated TB) were used for RNA extraction and sequencing. The snails were recovered randomly after hatching, pooled per condition and homogenized with 200 µL TRIzol[®] Reagent (Ambion™ by Life Technologies, France).

Total RNA was extracted following the TRIzol® manufacturer's instructions. Total RNA was cleaned using RNeasy® Micro Kit (Qiagen, France) following the instructions of RNeasy Micro Handbook (12/2007, p56) with on column DNase I treatment and then stored at −80 ° C. RNA purity and quantity was checked using the Nano-Drop™ 2000 (Thermo Scientific, France) and RNA quality was determined with Agilent RNA 6000 Nano kit of Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer (Agilent Technologies). The automated and standardized method for RNA quality control provided by the software relies on calculation of an RNA integrity number (RIN). The RIN calculation employs numerous features, including 18S and 28S fragment regions height, area, and intercept of the baseline (Schroeder et al. [2006\)](#page-12-0).

In mollusc, 28S RNA fragment is rarely observed. As documented in a range of invertebrates (Ishikawa [1977](#page-12-0); Barcia et al. [1997](#page-11-0); Muttray et al. [2008;](#page-12-0) Winnebeck et al. [2010\)](#page-13-0), 28S absence is due to a breaking point in the rRNA structure which converts 28S into 2 fragments that are hydrogen bounded and that migrate approximately at the same size as the 18S rRNA during gel electrophoresis. Therefore we visually assessed the total RNA quality by evaluating the absence of oligonucleotides (produced by RNA degradation) and the presence of the peak corresponding to both rRNA.

Library preparation and RNA sequencing

The 18 libraries were prepared from 1.1 µg of total RNA with the $TruSeq^{\otimes}$ Stranded mRNA LT Kit (Illumina[®]) following the manufacturer's recommendations and then checked with the High Sensitivity chip of the Agilent 2100 BioAnalyzer (Agilent Technologies). The libraries were then quantified in qPCR with the ABI 7900HT (Applied Biosystems). Library preparations were sequenced with TruSeq® PE Cluster v3 kit (Illumina®), TruSeq® SBS 200 cycle v3 kit (Illumina®) and TruSeq® Multiplex Primer kit (Illumina[®]) on Hiseq 2000 (Illumina[®]) with generation of paired-end $(2 \times 100$ pb) reads.

De novo transcriptome assembly and annotation

Per condition assemblies

First the read pairs were stored, the database quality checking and the cleaning of remaining sequencing adapters were done using trim_galore (available at [http://www.bioinformatics.](http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10646-016-1748-1) [babraham.ac.uk/projects/trim_galore/,](http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10646-016-1748-1) version0.4.0) (Mariette et al. [2012\)](#page-12-0). Then the over-represented reads were filtered out using the normalize_by_kmer_coverage.pl command lines from the Trinity software package (Grabherr et al. [2011](#page-12-0)). The next step aimed at discarding the invalid base calls by extracting the longest sub-sequence without Ns from each read. If the length of the longest sub-sequence did not exceed half of the sequence length, the read and its mate were removed. This last step was performed using an in-house command lines.

Nine Oases assemblies using nine different k-mers (25, 31, 37, 43, 49, 55, 61, 65, and 69) were performed on the pre-processed input data (Schulz et al. [2012\)](#page-13-0). Each assembly produces a transcripts.fa file. Each raw_transcripts.fa file is then organized into loci. Only the longest and most covered (used reads) loci are kept using the Oases-V0.2.04OutputToCsvDataBase.py command lines developed by a Brown University team. After that, all files were merged. Finally, anti-sense chimeras (accidentally produced by the assembly step) were split with a homemade script.

Because similar collections of contigs are produced by different k-mers, a cd-hit-est step was used to remove contigs based on their sequence similarities (Fu et al. [2012\)](#page-12-0). Because different kmers sometimes construct different parts of the transcripts, we used TGICL to assemble contigs having significant overlaps (Pertea et al. [2003\)](#page-12-0). The contigs were also filtered on a minimum length of 200 base pairs.

Input reads were then mapped back to the contigs using bwa aln (version 0.7.6) (Li and Durbin [2009](#page-12-0)). The resulting alignment files were used to correct the contig sequences from spurious insertions and deletions using an in-house command lines and to filter out those with very low coverage. The filter excludes contigs with less than two mapped reads per million.

Meta-assembly

All single condition contig fasta files were concatenated and each contig renamed by adding the condition name at the beginning of the contig name. The longest Open Reading Frame (ORF) was then searched with getorf from EMBOSS (Rice et al. [2000\)](#page-12-0). Cd-hit clustering was performed on the ORFs with sequence identity equal to or greater than 90% in order to extract, from each cluster, the contig with the longest ORF or, if the ORF size was the same, the longest contig. Clustering using cd-hit-est was performed on the remaining contigs with sequence identity equal to or greater than 95%. Input reads from all conditions were then mapped to the contigs using bwa aln (Li and Durbin [2009\)](#page-12-0). Contigs with very low coverage, less than 2 mapped reads per million, were filtered out.

Variant discovery

The raw reads were realigned to the final set of contigs using bwa mem (Li and Durbin [2009](#page-12-0)). The alignments were

then filtered on alignment unicity and quality using the Q30 threshold. The resulting bam files were re-aligned and recalibrated using GATK version 2.4.9 (McKenna et al. [2010\)](#page-12-0). SNP and INDEL calling was performed using the Unified genotyper algorithm of GATK. SSR were searched in the contig fasta file using trf (Benson [1999\)](#page-11-0).

Differential expression analysis

The differential expression detection of genes across samples was performed using the DESeq R package (1.14.0) (Anders and Huber [2012\)](#page-11-0). Briefly, the analysis was performed after the estimation of effective library size, also called normalization, with "estimateSizeFactor" function and after variance estimation with the "estimateDispersions" function.

The DE contigs between control and TA, control and TB, TA and TB were identified with "nbinomTest" resulting in a data frame with p-values that were fitted using Benjamini and Hochberg's procedure. An adjusted p value of 0.05 was used as the threshold to significantly select the DE contigs. Among the significantly DE contigs, we classified them according to their over (Fold Change > 1) or underexpressed (Fold Change \lt 1) profile.

Contig annotation and function prediction

The contigs were aligned vs. different nucleic and protein reference databases including: SwissProt, RefSeq protein, Limnea stagnalis contig, Crassostrea gigas and Lottia gigantea Ensembl protein, Biomphalaria glabrata peptides. The GO terms were retrieved using the SwissProt, RefSeq protein alignment matches. All the results were stored in an RNAbrowse (Mariette et al. [2014\)](#page-12-0) instance.

Function prediction was determined using Interproscan which assigned Gene Ontology (GO) terms for contigs having at least one significant hit against an annotated reference from a database. For differentially expressed contigs, GO annotation was mapped into three ontologies ("Biological Process", "Molecular Function" and "Cellular Component") using Generic GO Term Mapper and then plotted using the WEGO (Web Gene Ontology Annotation Plot) plotting tool.

Functional annotation of DE contigs was performed using KAAS (Kyoto Encyclopedia of Gene and Genome (KEGG) Automatic Annotation Server) and KOBAS (KEGG Orthology Based Annotation System) 2.0 to test the statistical enrichment of DE genes in the KEGG pathway. Only pathways with a corrected p value < 0.05 were considered as significantly enriched. Results of annotation were then categorized using KEGG pathways, BRITE hierarchies for protein family analysis and KEGG modules.

Table 1 Results of contig cleaning

Sequence accession numbers

The original sequencing reads of R. balthica juveniles libraries were submitted on European Nucleotide Archive (ENA) and are available under accession number PRJEB12711 [\(http://](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/data/view/PRJEB12711) www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/data/view/PRJEB12711).

Results

Analysis of libraries and contig assemblies

The 18 libraries generated a total of 503,171,850 raw reads before filtering with the Illumina CASAVA 1.8 filter which deleted 39,759,772 raw reads (7.90% of the total). Then, the filtered reads were cleaned before assembling. A total of 56,435 contigs was generated (Table 1). Mean contig length and mean contig depth were calculated using all contigs from the 18 libraries. They were respectively 1579.68 bp (Fig. [1](#page-4-0)) and 378.96 reads (Table 1).

Analysis of mapping

Reads were mapped to the contig assembly to measure the "gene" expression level for each contig. For each of the eighteen libraries, an average of 97% clean reads were mapped to a contig in the assembled contig data (Fig. [2\)](#page-4-0).

Annotation

The BLAST search annotated 44.91% of the 56,435 contigs (Fig. [3\)](#page-4-0): 24.55% against RefSeqProt, 7.85% against the L. stagnalis contig database, 5.54% against the B. glabrata peptide database, 3.57% against the L. gigantea peptide database, 1.94% against the C. gigas peptide database and 1.46% against SwissProt.

Differential expression

The DESeq package used for the DE contigs revealed 144 DE contigs, with 59 contigs up-regulated and 85 down-

Fig. 2 Clean reads mapping to assembled contigs for each library. Control refers to control condition, Oxa_10 refers to 10 µg.L−¹ Oxazepam condition and Oxa_0.815 refers to 0.815 µg.L−¹ oxazepam condition

Fig. 3 Graphical representation of contig annotation

regulated for treatment A vs. control. For treatment B vs. control, only 2 contigs appeared to be up-regulated. Further analysis showed that only 34.0% of the DE contigs were annotated with a biological function (Table [2,](#page-5-0) see supplementary Table S1 for complete data). For TA, among the most annotated under-expressed contigs, there was function prediction of Morc (Members of the conserved Microrchidia family) family protein, Dentin sialophosphoprotein (DSPP), Carbonyl reductase and also proteins of ADAM (A Disintegrin And Metalloprotease) family, with fold change range from 0.058 to 0.328. Among the lowest ones, there was function prediction of enzymes such as Beta-galactosidase protein, Calumenin protein, Ribonuclease and L-Fucosidase proteins with fold change range from 0.728 to 0.745. For the over-expressed annotated contigs, the lowest impacted had function predictions of Ganglioside activator, Tyrosine receptor protein and Puromycin sensitive aminopeptidase with fold change range from 1.454 to 1.507 and the most over-expressed ones had function predictions of Hemagglutinin protein, Mitogen activated protein kinase (MAPK) and Deleted in malignant brain tumours protein with fold change range from 2.236 to 3.101. For TB, the only annotated contig was overexpressed and predicted as Otopetrin protein with fold change of 1.644.

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Functional annotation analysis of DE contigs

All the available GO-terms of the 144 DE contigs of TA and the 2 DE contigs of TB were mapped and plotted into three ontologies (Fig. [4](#page-8-0)) using WEGO plot. The most enriched ontology was "molecular function " with four dominant functions, "binding", "catalytic", "hydrolase" and "ion binding " .

KOBAS 2.0 software was used to identify the most signi ficantly enriched KEGG pathway which is represented in Table [3](#page-8-0). The 2 DE contigs of the TB are not found in any of the pathways. The 6 most enriched pathways of the DE contigs of TA were the "Notch signalling pathway " with 5 contigs assimilated to this pathway, "Chemical carcinogenesis " with 2 contigs assimilated to this pathway, "Arachidonic acid metabolism " enriched with 2 contigs, "Epithelial cell signalling in *Helicobacter pylori*" with 2 contigs assimilated for this pathway, "Extracellular matrix receptor (ECM-receptor) interaction " with 2 contigs assimilated to this pathway and "Aminobenzoate degradation " enriched with 1 contig (Table [3\)](#page-8-0). The KEGG Mapper was used for BRITE hierarchy reconstruction (Fig. [5](#page-8-0)), which classifies the K numbers of each contig into three ontologies named "Metabolism", "Genetic Information Processing" and "Signalling and Cellular Processes". The most represented ontology was "Metabolism " with the Enzyme subcategory containing 15 contigs. The KEGG Mapper was also used for module reconstruction of the 144 differentially expressed contigs of the TA, the 2 DE contigs of TB haven 't highlighted a module. That resulted in 6 modules representing the main principal modules affected by differentially expressed contigs. One contig (Rp1_contig_28236) encodes a predicted Mitogen Activated Protein Kinase Kinase Kinase 2 (MAP3K2 protein), potentially involved in three modules (three MAPK pathway), c-Jun N-terminal kinase also called JNK (M00688), p38 (M00689) and Extracellular signal-Regulated Kinase also called ERK (M00690). Another module was Notch signalling (M00682) with 5 contigs down-regulated (Rp1_LOC101849541.1.7, Rp1_LOC101849541.2.7, Rp1_LOC101849541.7.7, Rp1_LOC100533548 and Rp1_LOC102304721.1.2). The alignment of the three contigs encoding a predicted ADAM 17 protein (Rp1_LOC101849541.1.7, Rp1_LOC101849541.2.7, Rp1 LOC101849541.7.7) lead us to conclude to an assembling error as these contigs appeared to be parts of the same sequence encoding a predicted ADAM 17 protein. The two other contigs, Rp1_LOC100533548 and Rp1_LOC102304721.1.2, were predicted to encode ADAM 10 and Deltex protein, respectively. The last two modules impacted were Catecholamine biosynthesis (M00042) with one contig Fig. 4 Distribution of the over and under-expressed contigs using GO terms according to three GO top categories. C refers to control condition, TA refers to $10 \mu g.L^{-1}$ oxazepam exposure

Table 3 The most enriched KEGG pathway of differentially expressed contigs (corrected p value < 0.1)

The KEGG pathway enrichment was based on the K numbers of each differentially expressed contig under TA exposure

Fig. 5 Graphical representation of differentially expressed contigs according to the KEGG top categories. The BRITE hierarchy reconstruction was based on the K numbers of each differentially expressed contig under TA $(10 \mu g.L^{-1}$ oxazepam) exposure

up-regulated (Rp1_contig_36516) encoding a predicted function of Dopamine β–hydroxylase (DBH) and Polyamine biosynthesis (M00133) with one down-regulated contig (Rp1_contig_38845) encoding a predicted Agmatinase (AGMAT) protein.

Insertion, deletion (INDEL) and single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) detection

The detection of INDELs and SNPs performed with the GATK algorithm identified 455,826 SNPs (92.4% of

variants) and 37,517 INDELs (7.6% of variants) with 19,628 insertion (4% of variants) and 17,889 deletion (3.6% of variants).

Discussion

In this study, RNA sequencing produced 56,435 contigs with a mean length of 1579.68 bp which increases probability to find a complete Open Reading Frame (ORF) in one contig and thus facilitates prediction of functional annotation. Thus, 44.91% present an annotated ORF. A higher mean length must be problematic because of the possibility to find two or more ORFs in one contig which can disrupt DE analysis. In the present case, the mean contig length was suitable to yield an almost complete transcript.

Differential analysis

Differential expression analysis revealed 144 contigs DE for treatment A. Only 34.0% of contigs were annotated with various functions such as enzyme activity, cell surface receptors or proteins involved in cell signalling processes. The other contigs could be orphan proteins, non-coding RNA or sequences from UTR protein regions. Moreover, we can't discard the presence of partially or misassembled transcript, because of the absence of genome sequencing data and functional annotations available for non-model organisms (Schunter et al. [2014\)](#page-13-0). For treatment B, only 2 contigs were DE and only one was annotated as Otopetrine. Several hypotheses can explain the lack of contigs DE under this condition. First, the few number of sequenced genomes limits the annotation power and sometimes may generates two or more partial or complete Open Reading Frame (ORF) on one contig. Schunter et al. ([2014\)](#page-13-0) has demonstrated that numbers of contig isoforms increase with contig length resulting in a substantially reduction of differential analysis efficiency. This point being dependant on the in-house command lines used, could also affect the annotation. This bias decreases severely the assembling and the annotation strength, particularly for the DE contigs treatment. In addition, the method used for bioinformatics treatment could be too stringent (to delete the false positive). Some genes didn't appear DE while they are not, in some case, data structures need to accommodate multiple transcripts per locus due to alternative splicing and sequences that are repeated in different genes introduce ambiguity (Grabherr et al. [2011](#page-12-0)). Another hypothesis would be that effect of low concentrations of oxazepam were difficult to detect on the transcriptome of R. balthica. The impact could be visible at another level of the organism such as proteome or enzyme activities level. As shown by Chen et al. ([2014\)](#page-11-0), the low concentration of pharmaceuticals like carbamazepine (at 0.5 µg/L) used in this study impact catalase activity (higher activity of catalase in the digestive gland and gills of Corbicula fluminea exposed for 30 days to carbamazepine solution) but had no effect on genes expression of Heat shock protein (Hsp). These observations support the hypothesis that low concentrations of oxazepam could impact significantly another biological mechanism. These limited effects could be also due to the too long or too short exposure time tested.

After function prediction of the 144 DE contigs of treatment A made with the GO database, molecular function appears to be the most enriched ontology with "Catalytic" and "Hydrolase" function being the most represented. This observation is in line with the Brite hierarchy reconstruction of the KEGG database using K-numbers, with the "Metabolism" ontology being the most represented with "Enzyme" sub-categorie. Function prediction using the KEGG database highlighted two major impacted pathways: "Notch signalling pathway" involved in many cellular processes and "Extra Cellular Matrix receptor (ECM-receptor) interaction" involved mainly in cell-cell interactions (Table [3\)](#page-8-0). KEGG Mapper prediction emphasizes the presence among the DE contigs of "Notch" module but also of the "MAPK signalling" (JNK) module and two biosynthesis pathways i.e. "Catecholamine" and "Polyamine" biosynthesis. The potential disturbance of these four predicted pathways is discussed below.

Notch signalling pathway

As reviewed by Weinmaster et al. (Weinmaster et al. [1992;](#page-13-0) Weinmaster [1997,](#page-13-0) [1998,](#page-13-0) [2000](#page-13-0)) the Notch signalling pathway is a complex cascade of events conserved in many eukaryotic cells which culminates in altered genes expression patterns. Notch signal transduction is mainly initiated by cell-cell contact and triggers a succession of reactions involving many partners such as metalloprotease enzyme (ADAM proteins family) or ubiquitin transferase enzyme (Deltex protein). Our study highlighted down-regulation of three contigs encoding two predicted ADAM proteins family (ADAM 10 and ADAM 17) and one predicted Deltex (DTX) protein. The ADAM protein family mediates the second cleavage of mature cell surface receptor required for the third cleavage of Notch that releases the Notch active cytoplasmic domain from the plasma membrane. ADAM 17 (also called TACE) is also involved in many other pathways with a critical role in the processing of multiple protein like Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF) proteins family (Peschon et al. [1998](#page-12-0)) and interestingly it has been shown that it could be inhibited by benzodiazepine molecules in mammalian organisms like mouse (Nelson et al. [2002;](#page-12-0) Levin et al. [2004;](#page-12-0) Scheller et al. [2011](#page-12-0); Dreymueller et al. [2015](#page-12-0)). Our results

are in accordance with the studies of Levin et al. [\(2004](#page-12-0)), Nelson et al. ([2002\)](#page-12-0) and Scheller et al. ([2011\)](#page-12-0), which showed TACE inhibition by many of substituted benzodiazepine hydroxamates compounds. In our case, accepting the hypothesis that Notch signalling operate in the same way of mammalian signal transduction, the inhibition of metalloprotease enzyme could decrease the active cytoplasmic form of Notch and so decrease the transcription of Notch target genes. Notch proteins could be directly inhibited by benzodiazepine molecules. As shown by Gavai et al. ([2015\)](#page-12-0), the benzodiazepine compound like 2-oxo-1,4 benzodiazepin-3-yl-succinamides inhibits in vitro the γsecretase mediated signalling of Notch receptors. The role of Deltex protein is not clear in the Notch pathway but recent studies suggest that Deltex protein interacts with other proteins in the cytoplasm and in the nucleus to activate or inhibit the transcription of target genes (Diederich et al. [1994](#page-12-0); Matsuno et al. [1995;](#page-12-0) Weinmaster [1997;](#page-13-0) Baron [2012\)](#page-11-0). Deltex encoding gene is also a target of Notch signalling (Deftos et al. [1998\)](#page-12-0). The down-regulation of the deltex gene in our study could be the result of Notch inhibition via the down-regulation of the ADAM genes. The scenario where Notch, ADAM 10, ADAM 17 would be inhibited could potentially have an impact on many mechanisms, such as neurogenesis, myogenesis, but also cellular specification, differentiation, proliferation and survival. One or more of these mechanisms occurring during embryogenesis could be impacted by oxazepam exposure and more broadly by benzodiazepines. This disturbance could have a strong teratogenic impact on our model and thus on the fitness of organisms exposed in the environment.

Mitogen-activated protein kinases

The second module which appeared to be impacted was the mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPK). Three MAP kinase cascades have been characterised: ERK, JNK and p38. Our study highlighted the over-expression of one contig encoding predicted MAP3K2 serine/threonine protein kinase mainly involved in the MAP-JNK signalling pathway. As reviewed by Takeda and Ichijo ([2002\)](#page-13-0), the JNK signalling pathway consists of three classes of serine/ threonine kinases, MAPK, MAPK Kinase (MAPKK or MEK) and MAPKK kinase (MAPKKK). MAP3K2 is the first serine/threonine kinase phosphorylated in the JNK pathway. It is known that the JNK pathway is mainly activated in response to environmental stress such as UV, heat shock or osmotic shock and also by proinflammatory cytokines and interleukin-1 (Tumor Necrosis Factor and ILK-1) (Takeda and Ichijo [2002](#page-13-0)). Interestingly, it has been shown that Notch and Nuclear factor-kappa B (NF-κB) pathways can inhibit the MAP-JNK pathway via the Growth arrest and DNA-damage-inducible (Gadd45) protein (Elsharkawy et al. [2005;](#page-12-0) Maniati et al. [2011](#page-12-0)). This observation supports the impact on Notch signalling pathway suggested by our results. Only one contig overexpressed represented the MAPK module predicted via KEGG module reconstruct. The other partners of MAP3K2 may be over-expressed but undetected as differentially expressed because of the stringent bioinformatics methods used for differential expression analysis.

Catecholamine biosynthesis pathway

CAs are a class of neurotransmitters mainly represented by dopamine (DA) and its metabolic products, noradrenaline (NA) and adrenaline (A). These three CAs are synthesized from the amino-acid L-tyrosine using four principal enzymes. Our study showed one over-expressed contig encoding a predicted Dopamine-β-hydroxylase (DBH) protein involved in DA hydroxylation which produces NA (Flatmark [2000\)](#page-12-0). As shown by Richetto et al. [\(2015](#page-12-0)) on the mouse model organism, the positive allosteric modulation of the GABA receptor α -5 subunit may be particularly useful in mitigating pathological overactivity of the dopaminergic system. In our study, we used oxazepam, an agonist of the GABA receptor. The over-expression of DBH suggests possible over-production of dopamine neurotransmitter which could also affect the noradrenaline and adrenaline synthesis pathways. This suggestion is in accordance with results published by Heikkinen et al. [\(2008](#page-12-0)). They have shown a modulation of the glutamatergic transmission mediated by benzodiazepines which activates the ventral tegmental area (VTA) dopamine neurons and increases the amount of dopamine released in the nucleus accumbens (associated to pleasure, incentive salience, etc.), increasing the benzodiazepines impacts. Even if only one contig appeared DE in this module, it is interesting to consider these results because this neurotransmitter is involved in many physiological processes, such as cell-cell nervous conduction, but also in movement, feeding and behaviour, very important physiological processes for population fitness.

Polyamine biosynthesis pathway

The conventional polyamine biosynthesis pathway from arginine to polyamine is mediated by Arginase and Ornithine decarboxylase (ODC1) proteins. Some studies showed an alternative to this conventional pathway using Arginine decarboxylase (ADC) and Agmatinase (AGMAT) (Halaris and Plietz [2007;](#page-12-0) Wang et al. [2014](#page-13-0)). Our study highlighted the inhibition of one contig encoding predicted AGMAT protein involved in another polyamine pathway from arginine to putrescine via ADC and AGMAT protein (Halaris

and Plietz [2007;](#page-12-0) Wang et al. [2014\)](#page-13-0). It seems that these two pathways have a complementary role. This suggests a possible decrease in the amount of polyamines such as putrescine, spermine and spermidine which could lead to disturbance of DNA and protein synthesis regulation, the scavengers of reactive oxygen species, cell proliferation and the differentiation of tissues. The inhibition of AGMAT would also trigger an increase of Agmatine protein (precursor of putrescine) amount and thus disturb many cellular processes which involve Agmatine such as voltage gated $Ca²⁺$ channels and consequently nervous conduction of adrenergic, serotoninergic or also cholinergic neurones (Reis and Regunathan [2000](#page-12-0)). Agmatine can also modulates the release of glutamate and noradrenaline (Halaris and Plietz [2007\)](#page-12-0). Thereby, the modulation of agmatine production could directly impact glutamatergic and noradrenergic nervous conduction. Although this is based on a single contig in the module, it is consistent with our results suggesting that benzodiazepine could disrupt the noradrenaline and dopamine nervous conduction.

Conclusion

This study revealed a strong impact on the R . balthica transcriptome after exposure to $10 \mu g.L^{-1}$ oxazepam. Interestingly, at environmental concentration, no detectable effects were observed on Radix embryo transcriptome. These disturbances on the expression patterns of R. balthica may impact on important functions related to the homeostasis of development in this freshwater snail. Moreover, this study allowed enrichment of non-model organism transcript database used in ecotoxicological approaches.

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Authors' contributions The project was conceived and planned by FG, EB and J-YM. J-YM exposed, grinded and extracted the RNA. CK and FE performed the bioinformatics analysis and J-YM performed the differential analysis and the annotation of differential expressed contigs. J-YM wrote the manuscript and FG and EB proofread it.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Ethical approval All procedures performed in this study were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institution at which the study was conducted and was in compliance with current French laws.

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