

The impact of ocean acidification on the shell breaking strength of the common periwinkle, *Littorina littorea*

Anthropogenic atmospheric CO₂ has influenced global climate change; the increase in CO₂ has caused an increase in carbonic acid in the ocean, which has led to a process known as ocean acidification. Scientists predict by the year 2100 the ocean pH will drop from 8.01pH to 7.6pH (Hurd et al. 2009). *Littorina littorea*, the common periwinkle, were exposed to three different treatments (initial, ambient, and low pH) for a period of six weeks in order to determine the effects of ocean acidification on their shell breaking strength. Results indicate a significant difference in shell breaking strength among all three treatment groups, with the lowest breaking strength being the treatment group exposed to a lower pH (24.8% below the initial).

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