

Dear Editor,

We enclose a manuscript entitled 'Temperature affects predator-prey interactions in an African savanna' which I hope you will consider for publication in *Journal of Animal Ecology*.

The enclosed manuscript explores the impact of temperature on predator-prey interactions between a medium sized predator, the African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*), and both a smaller-bodied and a larger bodied prey species – dikdik (*Madoqua guentheri*) and impala (*Aepyceros melampus*) respectively - in an African savanna ecosystem. This is novel and interesting work, which we believe would be of great interest to readers of your journal for the following reasons:

- This paper highlights the importance of taking into account behavioural change in both predator and prey species when considering climate change impacts on species persistence.
- The study uses detailed data on species behaviour to explore the mechanism behind a climate change threat, that is, the fall in recruitment observed in African wild dogs at high temperatures.
- The findings of this study contrast with previous assumptions about the response of endothermic predators and prey to rising temperatures.
- The study has implications for conservation of not only African wild dogs, but of predator species more generally, which may use prey switching to cope with higher temperatures, and also of herbivore species, which may face increased predation risk under shifting climatic regimes.
- The observed prey switching behaviour has ecosystem level implications, and highlights the potential for rising temperatures to alter prey composition and browsing pressure through the influence of temperature on predator behaviour.

We have requested that one researcher does not review this manuscript. This is a result of instances in the past where they have not treated the review process with the respect or confidentiality that would normally be expected. The final decision on reviewers ultimately remains yours, however.

Thank you for your consideration, we hope to hear from you soon and will happily respond to any questions you have.

Yours Sincerely,

Daniella Rabaiotti, on behalf of all authors