**Response to Reviewers’ Comments**

**Date**: March 26, 2023

**Manuscript Number**: SCIM-D-22-00945R3

**Title of Article**: Temporal trends in academic performance and career duration of principal investigators in ecology and evolutionary biology in Taiwan

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Dear Dr. Lin Zhang,

Thank you for inviting us to submit a revised version of the manuscript. We greatly appreciate the valuable comments and feedback from the reviewers. We have incorporated many of the suggestions and the revision has substantially improved the manuscript. In particular, we have made the following major changes:

* Revised the introduction section to include a more extensive review of the current state the research field.
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Please see the following section for our detailed point-by-point responses. All line numbers pertaining to the changes refer to the revised manuscript.

Sincerely,

Syuan-Jyun Sun (corresponding author) on behalf of Gen-Chang Hsu and Wei-Jiun Lin

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**Reviewer 2's Comments to the Author(s):**

The authors have responded to most of my concerns. However, there are still two issues that i believe the authors should address before I can recommend accept. **Comment 1 >** Regarding the authors response to Comment 6: The authors answer: "Regarding the citation practices of journal articles and books/book chapters, we agree that these two publication types may have different citation patterns, but our main point is that both of them are critical research performance and contribute substantially to the evaluation of PIs' job application and promotion. In this regard, we included both journal articles and books/book chapters in the calculation of h-index." Yes, but different publication types are generally not comparable and the evidence for this is very strong in the scientometric literature. This is problematic since it means that the authors might compare authors that mostly publish in articles with authors that mostly publish in books/shapters which is like comparing apples with oranges. My recommendation is that the authors construct a proper performance measure in accordance with best practice in the scientometric literature. For example, constructing an indicator that takes this issue into consideration. Or, Exclude books/chapters and see if the results differ from the results when both document types are included. Or some other solution that show either that their indicator is not biased as the scientometric literature would suggest, or make adjustment for the potential bias with good arguments for why their solution works.

**Response >**

**Comment 2 >** Regarding the authors response to Comment 6: My recommendation is that the authors include the assessment of representativity (i.e., descriptive statistics, the population, and the chi2 test) in the manuscript so that this information is available for the readers.

**Response >**