25 September 2023

B Leuck & K Douglas

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

900 Exposition Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90007

Dear B Leuck & K Douglas,

My name is Vicente Fernández Lara, and I am an undergraduate student at Utah Tech University working under Dr. Klabacka’s Sites. I am currently leading a project focused on resolving the *Aspidocelis neomexicana* species complex (Saint George [Utah]) and assessing their distribution and possible expansion of their territory. The results of this project will contribute to both the fields of evolution and conservation biology. Funding for this project is received from the Department of Biology at Utah Tech University and my advisor Randy Klabacka. Sites Jr. Using a molecular data set (mitochondrial genes 12S, 16S and ND), I will generate a robust phylogenetic hypothesis (using a coalescent framework) that will help to determine species boundaries and make biogeographic inferences concerning this species complex and how it relates to the *Aspidocelis neomexicana* found in New Mexico. Tissue samples are needed to extract large quantities of DNA to get the coverage of the information needed to determine their origin. Up to six samples per species per locality would be ideal to cover the species haplotype from the locality. The tissues used for this project will be stored in a museum tissue loan box in our private tissue freezer. This study is starting, and will be finished and submitted for publication by May, 2023. Dr. Klabacka and me caught three individuals in Saint George area, where it has never been reported before. Detailed below is a list of the tissue samples in the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County that are crucial to my project. If it is at all possible could you send me the following sub samples?

Many thanks,

Vicente Fernández Lara

Vicente Fernández Lara

Department of Biology

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**(All tissues are *Aspidocelis neomexicana*)**

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| Catalog number: 130650  Catalog number: 130647  Catalog number: 131890 |
| Catalog number: 130642  Catalog number: 130640  Catalog number: 130641  Catalog number: 130648  Catalog number: 130644  Catalog number: 130650 |

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Student: Vicente Fernández Lara Advisor: Randy Klabacka