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Dear Editor,

Please consider our manuscript entitled “*Do early environmental experiences impact numerical discrimination abilities in a lizard?*” for publication in **Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology**.

Numerical cognition – the ability to discriminate between quantities – is crucial for animals in foraging and other adaptive behaviors. However, environmental conditions during early life can significantly influence brain development and cognitive abilities. While prenatal stress hormones and incubation temperature are known to affect various aspects of cognitive function, the interaction between these factors and their combined impact on numerical discrimination remain poorly understood. Using a multi-experimental approach manipulating both early temperature and corticosterone levels on eggs, we demonstrate that numerical discrimination is not significantly affected by these early environmental conditions in the common garden skink (*Lampropholis guichenoti*), suggesting that other factors may mediate cognitive development in this species.

Our novel findings have significant implications for the field of cognitive ecology and are likely to inspire new research on how developmental environments influence numerical cognition, which can be crucial for understanding ecological decision-making, foraging strategies, and the adaptive significance of cognitive abilities in variable environments. We believe this makes our work particularly suitable for a general journal like Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology, and we hope you share this perspective.

We confirm that this manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not currently under consideration for publication in any other journal. All authors have approved the manuscript for submission and declare no conflicts of interest.

Thank you for considering our manuscript for publication. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Pablo Recio Santiago

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