Pablo Recio Santiago

PhD Student

Australian National University

pablo.reciosantiago@anu.edu.au / 93.pablo.recio@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

I am writing to submit our manuscript entitled “Early environmental conditions do not impact behavioural flexibility in an invasive and non-invasive lizard species”. We believe that it makes a significant contribution to the field of cognition, behavioural ecology, and invasion biology.

In this study, we investigated how maternal effects interact with other aspects of the early environment to shape behavioural flexibility in two lizard species that have distinct histories of invasion. We manipulated prenatal environment and then assessed behavioural flexibility through a reversal learning task. Our findings provide novel insights into the effects of early environment on cognition in invasive and non-invasive species.

We believe that our manuscript is well-suited for publication in Biology Letters because we present for the first time research on the interactive effects of early environment and maternal contributions on cognition, encompassing our results in the context of invasion biology. We consider our premise to be innovative while the experiment is rigorous and well-designed. Furthermore, we are confident that our research will be of interest to the journal's readership.

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

PhD Student

Australian National University