Dear *Science Advances* Editors, 17/11/21

Please find attached our manuscript, titled ‘Sound garden: How snakes respond to airborne sounds’ for potential publication in *Science Advances.*

This work is appropriate for Science Advances because our study is the first to quantify the *natural behavioral response* of (non-anaesthetized) snakes to sounds. Our work advances the field because we quantify 9 behavioural responses, many of which have never been published before regarding snake behaviour (e.g. fixation behaviour, exploratory movement). Furthermore, while all previous studies investigating the response of snakes to sound measured the action-potential nerve responses to sound using partially anaesthetized snakes from one species, we used 19 non-anaesthetised snakes from five genera and a range of genera, foraging modes, and body types in response to different sounds.

Considering that: the World Health Organisation lists snakebite as a top-tier globally neglected tropical disease; the prevalence of snake fear in societies across the world; and the paucity of research on the behaviour of snakes and what affects their behaviour, we strongly believe that our research will be of great interest to the general public and broad readership of *Science Advances.*

If invited and accepted, we would like to request for a half-off publication fee (US$2,250) due to no grant being used to produce this research; all co-authors donated their time and resources. We have received confirmation that our university department can cover only this reduced publication fee of US$2,250.

* None of the material has been published or is under consideration for publication elsewhere
* We have no conflicts of interest
* The snakes’ care was in accordance with institutional guidelines
* All data and R-code will be available via Supplementary Material
* No funding was acquired for this work.

Thank you for your consideration of our manuscript as a suitable fit for your prestigious journal.

Kind Regards,

Christina Zdenek

**Christina N. Zdenek, BSc, MPhil, PhD**

Post-doc; Lab Manager, [Venom Evolution Lab](http://www.venomdoc.com/new-page-3/)

The University of Queensland  |  Brisbane, 4072  |  AUS

**M**+61 (0) 475 267 909  **E**[ChristinaZdenek@gmail.com](mailto:ChristinaZdenek@gmail.com)