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**Royal Society Open Science - Decision on Manuscript ID RSOS-170151.R2**

3 messages

**Royal Society Open Science**

Tue, Sep 19, 2017 at 5:36 AM

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19-Sep-2017

Dear Ms Gawel:

On behalf of the Editors, I am pleased to inform you that your Manuscript RSOS-170151.R2 entitled "Contrasting ecological roles of non-native ungulates in a novel ecosystem" has been accepted for publication in Royal Society Open Science subject to minor revision in accordance with the referee suggestions. Please find the referees' comments at the end of this email.

The reviewers and Subject Editor have recommended publication, but also suggest some minor revisions to your manuscript. Therefore, I invite you to respond to the comments and revise your manuscript.

- Ethics statement

If your study uses humans or animals please include details of the ethical approval received, including the name of the committee that granted approval. For human studies please also detail whether informed consent was obtained. For field studies on animals please include details of all permissions, licences and/or approvals granted to carry out the fieldwork.

- Data accessibility

It is a condition of publication that all supporting data are made available either as supplementary information or preferably in a suitable permanent repository. The data accessibility section should state where the article's supporting data can be accessed. This section should also include details, where possible of where to access other relevant research materials such as statistical tools, protocols, software etc can be accessed. If the data has been deposited in an external repository this section should list the database, accession number and link to the DOI for all data from the article that has been made publicly available. Data sets that have been deposited in an external repository and have a DOI should also be appropriately cited in the manuscript and included in the reference list.

If you wish to submit your supporting data or code to Dryad (<http://datadryad.org/>), or modify your current submission to dryad, please use the following link:

<http://datadryad.org/submit?journalID=RSOS&manu=RSOS-170151.R2>

- Competing interests

Please declare any financial or non-financial competing interests, or state that you have no competing interests.

- Authors' contributions

All submissions, other than those with a single author, must include an Authors' Contributions section which individually lists the specific contribution of each author. The list of Authors should meet all of the following criteria; 1) substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) final approval of the version to be published.

All contributors who do not meet all of these criteria should be included in the acknowledgements.

We suggest the following format:

AB carried out the molecular lab work, participated in data analysis, carried out sequence alignments, participated in the design of the study and drafted the manuscript; CD carried out the statistical analyses; EF collected field data; GH conceived of the study, designed the study, coordinated the study and helped draft the manuscript. All authors gave final approval for publication.

- Acknowledgements

Please acknowledge anyone who contributed to the study but did not meet the authorship criteria.

- Funding statement

Please list the source of funding for each author.

Please note that we cannot publish your manuscript without these end statements included. We have included a screenshot example of the end statements for reference. If you feel that a given heading is not relevant to your paper, please nevertheless include the heading and explicitly state that it is not relevant to your work.

Because the schedule for publication is very tight, it is a condition of publication that you submit the revised version of your manuscript within 7 days (i.e. by the 28-Sep-2017). If you do not think you will be able to meet this date please let me know immediately.

To revise your manuscript, log into <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/rsos> and enter your Author Centre, where you will find your manuscript title listed under "Manuscripts with Decisions". Under "Actions," click on "Create a Revision." You will be unable to make your revisions on the originally submitted version of the manuscript. Instead, revise your manuscript and upload a new version through your Author Centre.

When submitting your revised manuscript, you will be able to respond to the comments made by the referees and upload a file "Response to Referees" in "Section 6 - File Upload". You can use this to document any changes you make to the original manuscript. In order to expedite the processing of the revised manuscript, please be as specific as possible in your response to the referees.

When uploading your revised files please make sure that you have:

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- 5) All supplementary materials accompanying an accepted article will be treated as in their final form. Note that the Royal Society will neither edit nor typeset supplementary material and it will be hosted as provided. Please ensure that the supplementary material includes the paper details where possible (authors, article title, journal name).

Supplementary files will be published alongside the paper on the journal website and posted on the online figshare repository (<https://figshare.com>). The heading and legend provided for each supplementary file during the submission process will be used to create the figshare page, so please ensure these are accurate and informative so that your files can be found in searches. Files on figshare will be made available approximately one week before the accompanying article so that the supplementary material can be attributed a unique DOI.

Once again, thank you for submitting your manuscript to Royal Society Open Science and I look forward to receiving your revision. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes

Alice Power  
Editorial Coordinator  
Royal Society Open Science  
[openscience@royalsociety.org](mailto:openscience@royalsociety.org)

on behalf of Kevin Padian  
Subject Editor, Royal Society Open Science  
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Comments to Author:  
Reviewer: 2

Comments to the Author(s)

The authors have improved their manuscript. I still feel that results are over interpreted. I still feel that the part related to wild boar in fig.4 should be removed and only mentioned in the results as non significant, because in its present form, I feel the figure 4 is misleading by trying to compare pig and deer.

In Table 1.b the treatment effect for Ochrosia seems to be significant and in contradiction to what is stated in the text

(L200). Moreover I proposed to add the differences among species in fig. 2 but is has not been done. In Table 2, I still feel that authors should calculate average seedlings par scat only considering the scats where the species germinated but not in all as they did.

L252 wrong : pigs do not disperse more native species than non-native ones (2 natives versus 6 non-natives)

L269 *M. citrifolia* has an average of 170 (not 120).

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MS Title: Contrasting ecological roles of non-native ungulates in a novel ecosystem

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**Keywords:** ungulates, invasive species, novel ecosystems, dispersal

**Abstract:** Conservation has long focused on preserving or restoring pristine ecosystems. However, understanding and managing novel ecosystems has grown in importance as they outnumber pristine ecosystems worldwide. While non-native species may be neutral or detrimental in pristine ecosystems, it is possible that even notorious invaders could play beneficial or mixed roles in novel ecosystems. We examined the effects of two long-established non-native species – Philippine deer (*Rusa marianna*) and feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) – in Guam, Micronesia, where native vertebrate frugivores are functionally absent leaving forests devoid of seed dispersers. We compared the roles of deer and pigs on seedling survival, seed dispersal, and plant community structure in limestone karst forests. Deer, even at low abundances, had pronounced negative impacts on forest communities by decreasing seedling and vine abundance. In contrast, pigs showed no such relationship, and more seeds were found in pig scats than deer scats, suggesting that pigs provide an ecosystem function – seed dispersal – that has been lost from Guam. Our study presents a surprising discrepancy between the roles of two non-native species that are traditionally managed as a single entity, suggesting that ecological function, rather than identity as a non-native, may be more important to consider in managing novel systems.

EndDryadContent

FIG. 1. Permission to collect samples of *Amphiprion* in Guyana was granted to J.H. Brown and J.H. Newton by the Guyana Environmental Protection Agency (license no. 00075-02-003), and the study was reviewed and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (Protocol No. 0645) of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. J.A. Smith, an Ecuadorian artist working as a three-month paper in 1995 in the Ecuadorian Amazon, collected most of the *Amphiprion* but also obtained *Amphiprion* and *Phylloniscus* from extremely hatched fish. No species collecting permit or "National Game Protocol" was required of J.A. Smith. (J.A. Smith's participation from the Cooperated Forest in Colombia were all taken in Los Ambores, a 1995-1996, an extremely important forest. No special collecting permit or "National Game Protocol" was required of the state. In some of Colombia other working on a biology research project field sites in Colombia were supported by Institute of Environmental Management (INREMA) and the National University of Colombia.)

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Author contributions: T.W.H., D.L.S., and K.E.L. designed the study. T.W.H. prepared all samples for analysis. T.W.H. and K.E.L. collected and analyzed the data. T.W.H., D.L.S., K.E.L., and L.C. interpreted the results and wrote the manuscript. All authors gave their approval for publication.

**Impairments:** The authors declare no competing interests.

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\* RSOS-end-sections.PNG  
254K

**Ross Miller** <lotsofbugs@gmail.com>  
To: Ann Marie Gawel <anngawel@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 19, 2017 at 5:38 AM

Congratulations Ann. Woohoo!

Ross

[Quoted text hidden]

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Sent from Gmail Mobile

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Tue, Sep 19, 2017 at 5:50 AM