**Cover Letter**

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To the Editorial Staff,

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists,

I wish to submit an original manuscript entitled “Species Delimitation in Eastern Pine Snakes” for consideration by Ichthyology & Herpetology. In this study, we used ultra-conserved elements (UCEs) to estimate how many species of *Pituophis melanoleucus* were in our in-group sample. Using Bayesian phylogenetic methods, as well as the multispecies coalescent method *bpp,* we found no support for multiple species in this group.

I confirm that this work is original and has not been published elsewhere. We suggest that Richard Franz (University of Florida, [lrfranz08@gmail.com](mailto:lrfranz08@gmail.com)), Craig Rudolph (US Forest Service, [crudolph01@fs.fed.us](mailto:crudolph01@fs.fed.us)), and Richard. R Schaefer (US Forest Service, [rick.schaefer@usda.gov](mailto:rick.schaefer@usda.gov)) be considered as reviewers. All three of these authors have published on Pine Snakes in the southeastern United States.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you,

| Basanta Khakurel | Zachary Nikolakis | Brian Crother | April Wright |
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