We are writing to enquire about the suitability of our article entitled “Assessing the Impact of Key Ecological and Phenotypic Transitions on the Rate of Karyotype Evolution: Drift Drives the Evolution of Chromosome Number.” for publication in *Evolution*. Our article describes the results of comparative analysis of chromosome number evolution in Coleoptera, combining data from our karyotype database (www.uta.edu/karyodb) with published ecological and phenotypic data. This analysis allows us to test the role of drift, mutation and selection as the driving force in the evolution of chromosome number. We find a pattern consistent with drift as the driving force in chromosome number divergence among species. Our results have important implications for the likely models of speciation important in Coleoptera, one of the most successful of metazoan clades.

Sincerely,

Heath Blackmon

Jeff Demuth