**Contrasting effects of host or local specialization: widespread haemosporidians are host generalist whereas local specialists are locally abundant**

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**Running head: Parasite specificity constrains range**

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**Authorship statement**

Daniela Dutra, Gabriel Félix and Robert Poulin conceived the idea and designed the study. Daniela Dutra and Gabriel Félix performed the data analyses. Daniela Dutra wrote the manuscript with input from all other authors. All authors contributed critically to the drafts and gave final approval for publication.

**Conflict of interest statement**

None

**Biosketch**

Daniela Dutra is currently mainly interested in the dispersal patterns of parasites/pathogens (and their consequences). This research is part of her PhD project at University of Otago. Gabriel Félix is currently interested in ecological specialization and its consequences for the structure of ecological networks. Robert Poulin is a professor of Zoology at the University Otago whose research extends to all ecological and evolutionary aspects of host-parasite interactions, across all taxa and biomes.