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| Zurich, May 18, 2013 | |
| MS ID: JZO-03-13-OM-061.R1 Revised for Journal of Zoology  Testing for vocal individual discrimination in adult banded mongooses (*Mungos mungo*)  David A.W.A.M. Jansen, Michael A. Cant and Marta B. | |
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Dear Dr. Elina Rantanen,

Thanks for accepting our manuscript “Testing for vocal individual discrimination in adult banded mongooses (*Mungos mungo*)” by David A.W.A.M. Jansen, Michael A. Cant, and Marta B. Manser for publication as research paper in your Journal of Zoology. Our thanks go to the reviewers and the editor for their thoughtful critiques of our manuscript. We have revised the manuscript with the suggested minor points. Our point-by-point responses to comments of the 2nd reviewer are listed in detail on the following pages.

Sincerely yours,



David A.W.A.M. Jansen\*, Michael A. Cant, and Marta B. Manser

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Queries/critiques are numbered and in red font. Responses follow in black font. We have also indicated on which page and/or lines changes have been made. Please note that the line numbers are different then in the 1st review version.

**General response**

***Comment from the Editor:***

The paper requires a few minor changes prior to final acceptance. Please make the changes and resubmit the final version of the paper. The manuscript will not go out for further review. Once the changes are undertaken it will be accepted for publication. I look forward to receiving the final version of the manuscript.

We have dealt with all the changes as suggested by the second reviewer.

***Comment from the Reviewer: 2***

The manuscript has improved and I have just one comment regarding the choice of digging rather than moving calls. Although moving calls are not more individually distinct, they may be attended to more than the digging calls since it is obviously important not to become isolated from the group when they move off. As the authors mention, they may not attend to the caller identity of digging calls (and hence not be ‘surprised’ when an individual appears in an unexpected location). In contrast mongooses may pay particular attention to the identity of individuals giving ‘moving` close calls so they can maintain contact with preferred associates. The authors may choose to mention this possibility in the discussion.

Although we agree with the reviewer that this might be true, we currently have not evidence that they respond to a particular individual more than any other to keep cohesion with group members (except potentially the males during oestrus periods, where they may try to keep close position to the specific females in oestrus). The set-up of the violaton-expectation experiment is based on the fact that an unexpected fast shift from one side to the other side was not happening. In the context of playing ‘moving calls’ the individuals are constantly shifting, therefore the change of location would not be surprising. A different set-up of experiment with moving calls would be needed.

P3

L17 Evidence to true > evidence of true

L18 non primates animals like > non primate animals such as

L22 “This may be…” not very clear what “this” is, suggest you change to “The scarcity of evidence for individual recognition in non primate species may be…”

These corrections have been made.

P4

L7 “behaviour of of dominants”

L15 increased level of > increased levels of

These corrections have been made.

P5

L8 – remove “Despite that”

We left Despite that because we think the sentence needs it.

L14 Suggest you change to “Additionally we performed a class recognition playback experiment based on differences in dominance/age.”

These corrections have been made.

P6

L10 remove comma

These corrections have been made.

P7

L23 remove “we played back set of”

L25 change to “With sets of three calls we created blocks of calls from individuals.”

These corrections have been made.

P8

L7 change c) to b)

These corrections have been made.

P10

L15 As mentioned above – although the moving call may not be more individualistic, the receiver may be more motivated to attend and produce a differentiated response to moving calls based on caller identity compared to digging calls.

As pointed out above to the general point: The set-up of the violaton-expectation experiment is based on the fact that an unexpected fast shift from one side to the other side was not happening. In the context of playing ‘moving calls’ the individuals are constantly shifting, therefore the change of location would not be surprising. A different set-up of experiment with moving calls would be needed.

L16 may rather reflect > may reflect a lack of motivation rather than

L25 response is rather a lack of motivation > lack of response is due to a lack of motivation rather than

These corrections have been made.

P11

L23 remove comma

This correction has been made.

L24-26 – unclear sentence

We slightly rewrote the sentence to clarify our statement.

L26 – give an example of a situation or leave this sentence out

We have added the example of the pup escorts system.

L28…

I don't think you make it clear enough to the reader in this paragraph that the identity cues (urine for the elephants or calls for the mongooses) are given in an incongruent situation when the should not normally be encountered. Suggested revision of paragraph below.

We have replaced the revised paragraph.

P12

L15 – add full stop.

These corrections have been made.

P13

L1 – Typo in reference

We have corrected the reference.