Dear Editor,

Please consider our manuscript entitled **“Population genetics of a recent range expansion and subsequent loss of migration in monarch butterflies”** for publication in *Molecular Ecology*.

In brief, this manuscript describes how two factors—geographic range expansion and seasonal migration—influence patterns of spatial population genetic variation. We use the recent global range expansion and subsequent loss of migration in the monarch butterfly to test fundamental hypotheses about how genetic variation is distributed in space, with an emphasis on the monarch’s expansion across the Pacific Ocean. This manuscript uses both standard population genomic methods and demographic modeling to describe the timing of the expansion event and the population genetic consequences of migration loss. **Our results will be informative not only for researchers interested in the biology of monarch butterflies, but also for researchers interested in migration biology (especially the evolution of partial migration), range expansion, and demographic reconstruction.**

We think that this research will be of broad interest to the readership of *Molecular Ecology*. It fits the aims and scope of the journal, as it uses genomic data to inform questions related to **biogeography, migration biology, and population structure**. Our reference list includes many papers published in either *Molecular Ecology* or *Molecular Ecology Resources*, a testament to the strong degree of overlap between our manuscript and research that has traditionally been featured in *Molecular Ecology*.

We note that this manuscript was previously submitted to a separate journal in 2020 and rejected after review. To demonstrate that we have addressed reviewer comments and improved our manuscript since this original submission, we have included a copy of these reviewer comments and our responses to them as a supplemental file entitled “Response to Reviewer Comments – Monarch Range Expansion Submission 1”.

We declare no conflicts of interest and confirm that this research has not been submitted concurrently to any other journals for publication.

Thank you for your time, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Micah Freedman, Will Hemstrom, and coauthors