20/11/2023

Dear Editor,

Please find uploaded the revised manuscript “Beyond CREA: evolutionary patterns of non-allometric shape variation and divergence in a highly allometric clade of murine rodents” (Marcy et al.) for consideration for publication at Ecology & Evolution.

This manuscript is a heavily revised version of a previous submission, with was received positively by the reviewers but criticised because of a lack of literature context and analytical depth. We have adopted all recommendations (see details in the point-by-point response) and have added other analyses that we felt necessary to provide the appropriate breadth of evidence to support our conclusions. The conclusions and overall aim of the paper have not changed, however.

Our study is entirely replicable. All 3D data and original landmarking files are already published and the relevant 3D files are accessible via MorphoSource. All code and data to run all analysis, with detailed instructions, are released on zenodo and Figshare.

Please note that the extensiveness of the revisions was not possible for the previous corresponding author, Ariel Marcy, due to time limitations of her work. I have therefore taken over all aspects of the revision (analyses, re-writes, and responses to editors). As a result, I am not best placed to correspond to any queries regarding the manuscript. In consultation with the previous corresponding author Dr. Marcy, we therefore request a change of the corresponding authorship designation to myself. Please let me know if a change of authorship form needs to be filled out.

All authors have seen the final manuscript and agree with its publication.

Regards,

Vera Weisbecker