Dr. Steven Cooke

Editor-in-chief

Conservation Physiology

December 14, 2023

Dear Dr. Cooke,

We wish to submit an original research article entitled ‘*Intraspecific thermal variation in a coral reef fish (Acanthochromis polyacanthus)*’ for consideration in Conservation Physiology.

We confirm that this work is original and has not been published elsewhere, nor is it currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

In this manuscript, we identify intraspecific variation between low- and high-populations of a coral reef damselfish along the Great Barrier Reef. Hereinto, intraspecific variation within marine environments has not received the same attention as in terrestrial systems, largely due to the belief that populations in marine systems are demographically well connected. However, not all marine systems are able to easily disperse or establish recruits across large distances. Therefore, locally adapted traits warrant consideration regarding the impact they may have on modelling population (and species) responses to climate change, as well as identifying potential regions that may illicit sufficient adaptive response.

We have no conflict of interest to disclose.

Please address all correspondence concerning this manuscript to [elliott.schmidt@my.jcu.edu.au](mailto:elliott.schmidt@my.jcu.edu.au)

Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript.

Sincerely,

Elliott Schmidt, M.Sc.