### September 15, 2020

Dear Editors,

Please find attached our manuscript entitled “Conservational value of Aculeata communities in sand quarries during ecological succession” that we would like to submit for publication in *Biological Conservation*.

In our work we address the issue of presenting sand quarries as sites of high biodiversity for insect, without considering dynamical successional changes of these ecosystems, which can have significant effect on conservation value of these sites. Our study concerns the responses of three groups of Aculeata with different life histories – herbivores (Apiformes), predators (Crabronidae, Sphecidae), and kleptoparasites (Apiformes, Crabronidae, Chrysididae) – to successional transformations in 32 sand quarries, spanning 15 years of spontaneous succession. The results show varied processes of species exchange and provide information about preferences of predatory, herbivorous (pollinating), and parasitic Aculeata, including rare and threatened species, in respect of stages of ecological succession in sand quarries. This will allow a more deliberate implementation of suitable management methods to improve the preservation of these valuable sites by maintenance of a mosaic of habitats at various stages of successional transformation.

This is an original piece of research carried out by the authors. All authors agree with the contents of the manuscript and its submission to the journal. This study is a continuation of a project concerning the importance of sand quarries for Aculeata, which was initiated in 2015. The material used here was collected in 2008, 2015-–2016 (Twerd et al., 2019, Acta Oecologica 96, 56–64; 17 sites), and in 2017 (15 sites). The above-mentioned publication concerned the determination of the influence of factors on the species richness and number of wild bees in sand quarries. However, the presented study considers successional changes of three groups of Aculeata with different life histories in sand quarries.

The manuscript is not being considered for publication elsewhere while publication in your journal is pending. All sources of funding are acknowledged in the manuscript, and all authors have declared any direct financial benefits that could result from publication. All appropriate ethics and other approvals were obtained, and the study was conducted after obtaining oral consent from managers of the land and in accordance with applicable law.

The manuscript has been proofread by a native English speaker, and we have enclosed a Language Quality Assurance Certification.

Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript; we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Corresponding author