Expression of concern


Stress associated with group living in a long-lived bird

Nuria Selva, Ainara Cortés-Avizanda, Guillermo Blanco, Thomas Mueller, Bernd Heinrich and José A. Donázar

Subsequent to publication of ‘Stress associated with group living in a long-lived bird, Biol. Lett. 7, 608–610 (23 August 2011; Published online 9 February 2011, doi:10.1098/rsbl.2010.1204)’, the journal received an expression of concern from the authors (Nuria Selva, Ainara Cortés-Avizanda, Guillermo Blanco, Thomas Mueller, Bernd Heinrich and José A. Donázar) about the validity of some of the data based on laboratory analyses carried out by Jesús A. Lemus. While awaiting the outcome of further investigations, the Editor-in-Chief and the authors wish to notify readers of our concerns regarding this article.

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Retraction

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After careful examination, there is a need to question the validity of the results conducted by Jesús A. Lemus in the above paper, published in Biology Letters. Although the field and statistical procedures are correct, we have not been able to clarify in which external laboratories Dr Lemus conducted the hormonal and parasite analysis. Given the ephemeral nature of the material used (faeces), we are unable to repeat the analysis with the same samples employed in the original study. Therefore, we wish to retract the article. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience to the readers of Biology Letters.

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An Expression of concern for this paper has previously been published and can be viewed at http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rsbl.2012.0777.