

Dear Drs. Fernando Álvarez and Ma. Antonieta Arizmendi
Editors Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad

Greetings.

Please find attached the manuscript entitled “Defining the phylogeographic relationship between *cis*-Andean and *trans*-Andean populations of *Dendrocincla fuliginosa* and *Xenops minutus* in Colombia”. I think that Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad would be the best forum for its publication.

In this manuscript I obtained molecular information (both mitochondrial and nuclear DNA sequences) and morphometric measures for Colombian populations of two bird species (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa* and *Xenops minutus*) to explore their phylogeographic patterns. Both species exhibited phylogeographic structure and almost null gene flow among the major geographic groups in Colombia, suggesting the existence of vicariant processes separating populations, but morphometric variation was not related with the differences observed with the molecular markers. Both species showed patterns indicating a clear separation of individuals from the Amazon, while individuals from the Orinoquia (*cis*-Andean) and *trans*-Andean zone are closely related. I conclude that if such pattern is general the genetic differences among populations in this part of the Neotropics could not be explained only by the presence of the Andean mountains, but probably also by the ecological shift between Amazonia and Orinoquia.

I suggest the following researchers as possible reviewers.

David Prieto, davidprietorres@gmail.com. (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México),

Juan José Morrone juanmorrone2001@yahoo.com.mx (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)

Mark B. Robbins mrobbins@ku.edu (Kansas University, USA)

All of them are qualified researchers that have carried out phylogeographic and phylogenetic studies using molecular information.

This manuscript reports data from original research conducted by myself that have been not published elsewhere and is submitted exclusively to Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad. The manuscript is submitted as a file (.doc), plus two appendixes. The two figures are submitted as a unique file (.pdf) and are of enough quality to allow the review of our work. I will provide high-quality artwork if this submission is successful. Genbank accession numbers for all sequences obtained during this study will be provided if it submission is successful.

I hope that this manuscript fits the standards set by Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad and that it will be found acceptable for publication. Thank you very much in advance for your attention and hoping to hear from you soon I remain.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Enrique Arbeláez Cortés". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Cortés" being more prominent.

Biol. Enrique Arbeláez-Cortés M. Sc. Ph.D.

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