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Dr. Fernando Álvarez Noguera and Editorial Board
Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad

17/06/2019

Dear Dr Fernando Álvarez Noguera and Editorial Board,

Please find in attachment a manuscript (“Life history of the Tamesí molly, *Poecilia latipunctata*, from two populations in the Río Tamesí drainage in northeastern México”; authors: Rüdiger Riesch, Amber Makowicz, Brandon Joachim, Francisco J. García-De León & Ingo Schlupp) that we would like to submit for publication in *Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad*. All authors approved the manuscript, and we declare that we have no competing interests. This is an original manuscript that is not currently under consideration for publication in any other journal.

Our present study represents an important and novel contribution to our knowledge of the biology (specifically the life history) of a critically endangered Mexican fish, the Tamesí molly *Poecilia latipunctata*; this knowledge can hopefully facilitate proper conservation management plans. Specifically, we provide life history data from two natural populations, and we also compare their life history to that of two syntopic species, the Atlantic molly (*Poecilia mexicana*) and the Amazon molly (*Poecilia formosa*). We found most *P. latipunctata* life histories to be largely similar to that of other mollies, but *P. latipunctata* males were smaller than *P. mexicana* males, and *P. latipunctata* females produced significantly larger offspring than either *P. formosa* or *P. mexicana*. Based on these differences, we cautiously suggest that, besides anthropogenic disturbance, *P. latipunctata* populations might also be suffering from strong interspecific competition.

For the collection of these data, we have adhered to the Guidelines for the Use of Animals in Research, and all necessary permits were at hand.

As potential reviewers, we would like to suggest Jaime Zúñiga-Vega (jzuniga@ciencias.unam.mx) from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, and Omar Domínguez (goodeido@yahoo.com.mx) from the Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo.

We are grateful to you for taking the time to carefully read and evaluate our manuscript and we hope that you will find it suitable for publication in *Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad*.

We are looking forward to hearing your decision.

Yours Sincerely,

Rüdiger Riesch (on behalf of all authors)