Dear Editor,

We are pleased to submit our manuscript entitled “**Is species geographic overlap constant across latitude? A homage to E. H. Rapoport**” by F. Villalobos, A. Lira-Noriega and P. Rodríguez to be considered for publication in the Oecologica Australis “Macroecology and Geographical Ecology” Special Issue. We confirm that it is an original research, which is not being considered for publication in any other journal, and that all co-authors have agreed with its submission.

 Our study revisits and evaluates an original idea of E. H. Rapoport (1927-2017), who recently passed away, that has been surprisingly overlooked in the macroecological literature: the constant species overlap hypothesis. By doing so, we intend to pay tribute to the legacy that E. H. Rapoport has left in macroecology and geographical ecology. We use current distributional data on the original taxa that he studied (three rodent genera) as well as for several genera of phyllostomid bats to evaluate the existence and probability of finding a latitudinally constant species overlap within genera. We show how Rapoport might have inferred such hypothesis and the potential explanations for its existence. More interestingly, we demonstrate that the constant overlap across latitude among species of the same genus may in fact be the null expectation under random placement of cohesive geographic ranges. We discuss the implications of our findings in light of biological and methodological explanations. Our study highlights the necessity of evaluating macroecological patterns against appropriate null hypotheses. In addition, we stress the need and advantages of being always aware of important past contributions. Therefore, in the context of a special issue on macroecology and geographical ecology, as well as the timing of E. H. Rapoport passing, we believe that our study can be of interest to the readership of Oecologia Australis.

We hope that our contribution proves appropriate for this special issue of Oecologia Australis. Please, do not hesitate to contact us should you need further information.

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