

Editor-in-Chief
Dra. Camila dos Santos de Barros

Rio de Janeiro, 21 May 2020

Cover Letter

Dear editor,

Please find attached our manuscript entitled “Pellets and prey remains as indicators of the diets of two sympatric skuas (Aves: Stercorariidae) on King George Island, Antarctica” that we would like to be considered for publication in **Oecologia Australis**. In this study we compared the diet of South Polar skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*) and Brown skua (*S. antarcticus lonnbergi*) in two breeding periods using pellets and prey remains gathered in different areas of Admiralty Bay, Antarctica. Our results somewhat contrast with most of other studies that indicate fish as the main food item consumed by South Polar skua when both species occur in sympatry. The diets of both skuas species varied interspecifically, and for South Polar skua, also between seasons, supporting their opportunistic foraging. We also recorded cannibalism for both skuas and marine debris only for Brown skua. Birds were important items consumed for both skuas.

This is an original manuscript that has not been submitted, or even submitted simultaneously, to another journal. All co-authors are aware of the submission and contributed substantially to the present research. There is no conflict of interest among the authors.

We suggest the following names for referees:

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Sincerely yours,


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