



Editor in chief, Oecologia Australis

March 14th, 2022

Dear Dra. Camila dos Santos de Barros,

We are pleased to submit the **short communication** entitled “DOES MOONLIGHT SUPPRESS OR STIMULATE ACTIVITY OF AN ELUSIVE TROPICAL FOREST SMALL MAMMAL?”, by Leandro Castro Tripodi, Marcus Vinícius Vieira and Mariana Silva Ferreira, to be considered for publication in the **special issue edition** of *Oecologia Australis* “*Garrafão: 22 years of the largest small mammal monitoring study in Brazil*”.

Night-time illumination varies through the moon cycle and several nocturnal marsupials are known to alter their activity patterns in relation to moon phase; some suppress activity in bright moon nights to avoid predators (lunarphobia), while others increase activity to improve foraging efficiency (lunarphilia). Didelphidae marsupials have shown both increase and decrease in activity in responses to moonlight, suggesting a high plasticity in timing of activity. Here we showed that the black-eared opossum *Didelphis aurita* is also affected by bright moon nights. The opossum concentrated its activity under low light conditions, which can be a consequence of the increase in predation risk due to visually-oriented predators or an strategy to increase foraging efficiency, since *D. aurita* display features that reflect specialization to scotopic vision such as the *tapetum lucidum*.

The manuscript file has 14 pages (including references), 1 figure and 2 tables. This manuscript was not published before or accepted for publication, nor is under consideration for publication elsewhere. All authors agree on the content and were properly named on this submission.

We suggest four potential reviewers which are specialists or have recently published on the subject:

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Thank you for your consideration.



Sincerely,

Mariana Silva Ferreira

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Leandro Castro Tripodi

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