

RETRACTION

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Morphological and dietary differences between individuals are weakly but positively correlated within a population of threespine stickleback

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STATEMENT

I (DIB) hereby retract this paper. Its Figures 3 and 4 are fundamentally incorrect. Anyone reading or citing this paper in the future should be aware that a more appropriate title would have been: "Morphological and dietary differences between individuals are NOT correlated within a population of threespine stickleback".

Figure 3 purports to demonstrate the core point of the paper (i.e., based on stomach contents, morphologically divergent individuals are also divergent ecologically). But the Mantel Test-derived P-values testing the trends in Figure 3 are wrong. I misinterpreted the R output by using the lower-tail P-values for the correlation. The correct P-values are 1 minus the values reported in Figure 3 and Figure 4. None of the correct P's are significant.

I thank Tony Wilson (CUNY Brooklyn) for bringing this error to my attention. Although the other results reported in the paper remain correct, the trends in Figures 3 and 4 constitute its core message. I apologize for the error.

Once I made my original data and R code available to Tony Wilson, we were able to trace the cause of the discrepancy between my analyses and his. This should serve as a caveat, especially for beginning statistical programmers — as I was in 2008 when beginning to learn R for the paper in question here. Programmers should save all code used for statistical programming.

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