An island paradigm on the mainland: host population fragmentation impairs the community of avian pathogens

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In September 2012, we alerted Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences about the validity of the laboratory analyses carried out by Jesús A. Lemus published in the article ‘An island paradigm on the mainland: host population fragmentation impairs the community of avian pathogens’.

After careful examination, partial replication of the laboratory analyses to assess the validity of our results, and as confirmed by the Ethics Committee of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) on 25 July 2012, there is a need to question the validity of the laboratory analyses conducted by J. A. Lemus in the above article. We replicated molecular analyses of all available samples (ca one-third of the original samples) in two independent laboratories, but the results did not yield repeatable values between laboratories. J. A. Lemus received blinded samples and consequently had no information about the individuals analysed, or the characteristics of their population at any moment of the analyses. However, and despite our additional efforts, we are unable to arrive to any sound conclusion about the validity of his analyses.

For all the reasons explained, we wish to retract this published article.

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