



**SDI Review Form 1.6**

Journal Name:	<a href="#">Asian Journal of Biology</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJOB_32748
Title of the Manuscript:	Body Size Variation in <i>Pterostichus montanus</i> Motch. (Coleoptera, Carabidae) in Altitudinal Gradient
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

**General guideline for Peer Review process:**

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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**PART 1: Review Comments**

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<b>Compulsory</b> REVISION comments	<p><b>INTRODUCTION</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The introduction is on the relationship between latitude and body size. Title is on the relationship between altitude and body size. Latitude and altitude are two different things. Latitude is the relative position on Earth surface measured from the equator. It is measured in degrees. Altitude is the height from sea level. It is measured in feet or meters. Relationships between climate and latitude differs from relationships between climate and altitude.</li> </ol> <p>Therefore, I suggest that the "Introduction" be re-written.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Introduction is not sufficient. Should provide information on previous studies on relationships between insect body size and other habitat/ geographical variables. Is this the first time that the relationship between insect body size and altitude is studied? If there are previous studies they should be mentioned.</li> </ol> <p><b>MATERIALS AND METHODS</b></p> <p><b>Study Sites</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Changes have to be done on Fig. 1.</li> <li>2. Legend of Fig. 1 has to be changed.</li> <li>3. Corrections have to be done to the text. They are highlighted and indicated on the text itself.</li> </ol>	<p>Very often researchers identify latitude and altitude clines, because observed results are often similar. I have added to the main text corresponding authors.</p> <p>I have added corresponding publications into the main text (indicated in green)</p> <p>Revised text are in red colour.</p> <p>Revised</p> <p>Revised</p>



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	<p><b>Study Organism</b> Changes indicated on text.</p> <p><b>Study Design</b> Should be re-written. Suggestions given on text.</p> <p><b>Morphometric Analysis</b> Changes indicated on text.</p> <p><b><u>RESULTS</u></b> Results are not interpreted properly. Environmental parameters are considered without measuring them in the current study. Environmental parameters (climate and soil) should have been measured at each site and subjected to statistical analysis to conclude your results.</p> <p><b><u>DISCUSSION</u></b> Highly confusing!! Authors talk about various species that they have not studied here. Discussion is not sufficient. It does not discuss your results properly.</p> <p><b>The authors have concluded that there is no relationship between body size and altitude. However, the statistical analysis for this conclusion, number of beetle specimens used for each altitude, results (Table showing average beetle body size parameters for each altitude) are missing. Without these information how can the authors come to this decision ? Further, authors conclude that there is a variation in population structure with altitude. The statistical analysis to this part is unclear. Population structure includes the abundance, gender proportions, age/ size proportions. These are not</b></p>	<p>Revised</p> <p>All environmental parameters were described in the previous publication, which we noted: Abalakov, A. D., Molozshnikov, V. N. (2011) False subglacial ecosystems – endemics, natural phenomena 201 and environmental indicators of Baikal hollow. Proceedings of All-Russia scientific conference, Ulan-Ude, 3- 7. Ananina, T. L. (2010) Ground Beetles number dynamics in mountains of north – east Baikal region. Buryat University Press. Ulan-Ude.</p> <p>We have added mentioned table.</p> <p>Mentioned population structure parameters were published earlier (Ananina, T. L. (2010) Long-term number dynamics of <i>Pterostichus montanus</i> Motch. (Coleoptera, Carabidae) at the transect of Barguzin mountain. Proceedings of Regional symposium of Siberian and Far East entomologists, Novosibirsk, 7-9), in this paper we used the only PCA to search traits loadings, hence- some aspect of population structure.</p>
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	<p>given.  <b>Authors discuss environmental fluctuations affecting population structure and environmental factors influencing populations. The study does not measure any environmental parameters. Therefore, cannot come to such conclusions.</b></p> <p><b><u>REFERENCES</u></b>            Formatting is completely and not in accordance with journal guidelines. I have indicated some errors on the text itself.</p>	Revised
<b><u>Minor</u></b> REVISION comments	Grammatical and other such errors are highlighted and indicated on the text itself.	Revised
<b><u>Optional/General</u></b> comments		