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Dear Editors, BMC Research Notes:

Please consider our manuscript "*Development, characterization, and cross-amplification of polymorphic microsatellite loci for North American* Trachymyrmex *and* Mycetomoellerius *ants*" for publication as a Research Note in *BMC Research Notes*. We are submitting to *BMC Research Notes*, as our manuscript aligns with the journal's aim and special emphasis to publish short, open access publications regarding novel and useful scientific findings.

Our manuscript is a worthwhile addition to the scientific literature for several reasons. First, our research concerns the development of multiple novel microsatellite markers obtained from Illumina sequencing of two widely distributed fungus-gardening (attine) ant species in North America. Microsatellite markers remain useful and economical tools, even in the age of genomics, and our results illustrate their importance in the study of population genetics. Second, we tested the efficiency of the newly developed markers in two congeneric species and found that many successfully cross-amplified, which further demonstrates the utility of these markers in both population and community genetic studies across many species in North America. Third, our manuscript outlines how these markers can be used (and used repeatedly) in a variety of future ecological and evolutionary studies of attines, including in conjunction with data from maternally inherited markers. This work should be of interest to those who study population genetics, community ecology, phylogeography, symbioses, and ants in general.

We suggest the following reviewers for this manuscript: Drs. Jeffrey Sosa-Calvo (jsosacalvo@gmail.com, ORCID: 0000-0003-3995-7275), Scott Solomon (scott.solomon@rice.edu), Ulrich Mueller (umueller@utexas.edu, ORCID: 0000-0003-2677-8323) and/or Chris Smith (smithch@earlham.edu, ORCID: 0000-0003-4667-9509).

This work as submitted has not been published or accepted for publication, nor is being considered for publication elsewhere, either in whole or substantial part. The work is original, and all necessary acknowledgements have been made. All authors and relevant institutions have read the submitted version of the manuscript and approve its submission. All persons entitled to authorship have been so included. The work conforms to the legal requirements of the country in which it was carried out, and to accepted international ethical standards, including those relating to conservation and animal welfare, and to the journal's policy on these matters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, on behalf of all coauthors,

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