

**Quantitative Phylogenetics  
Spring 2014**

**Guidelines for Peer Review**

In your review, you should address the following points. Don't just provide a YES or a NO, but explain why, particularly in the case of a "no" evaluation. You should provide the author with a clear and specific set of issues that you would want to see addressed in a revised paper. It is common practice for the reviewer to summarize the paper in his/her own words, so we recommend that you do this. This also helps to see how well the reviewer understood and/or paid attention. Your peer review will be graded based on whether you have addressed each of these points below professionally and appropriately (each weighed equally).

- 1- Are the evolutionary or biological questions underlying the study and the objectives of the paper clearly stated?
- 2- Is enough background provided for you to place the proposed project in the larger context of research in the field?
- 3- Is the proposed project likely to be an original contribution to the field?
- 4- Are the data proposed to be collected appropriate to answer the questions raised in the introduction?
- 5- Are the proposed methods appropriate to the data, and to address the proposed questions? Are they sufficiently rigorous and do they reflect the current state of the field?
- 6- Are the results of analyses or experiments clearly and completely presented, and do any conclusions or interpretations drawn from them appear to be sound?
- 7- Does the author return to the questions or objectives of the study in the discussion, and discuss them in terms of the results?
- 8- Is the paper well written and free of errors?
- 9- Are points in the text referenced appropriately, using a consistent format?

Please be constructive, cordial and professional in your comments. Most importantly, whenever possible, offer concise and specific suggestions for improving the manuscript or addressing problems that you find in it.

It is best to make your points as a series of individual, numbered suggestions, referencing if necessary, the location of the text in the manuscript. This makes it easier for the author and for us to be certain that (s)he has addressed all of your suggestions.