



Sainath Suryanarayanan <sainath@usrtk.org>

Concerns about Zhou et al.'s Addendum in Nature

Bex Walton <r.walton@nature.com>
To: "sainath@usrtk.org" <sainath@usrtk.org>

Wed, Dec 2, 2020 at 10:15 AM

Dear Sainath,

Thank you for your email. Please find below a response from Nature – this language can be attributed to a spokesperson for the journal.

We appreciate that, given global events, the methodology of this paper is of particular interest and we are committed to carefully assessing issues raised with us, as well as responses from the authors, so that we can ensure that clarity is provided to our readership. Comments were raised with us about the paper, and after careful consideration, we concluded that the original paper was insufficiently clear about when the full-length sequencing of the bat virus was performed and that an addendum was necessary for readers' understanding of the article. As the authors note in the addendum, the bat virus was renamed to reflect the bat species, the location of the cave and the sampling year. The scientific findings described in the original paper are not affected by these clarifications.

Our addendum format provides a vehicle for publishing clarification or significant additional information necessary for readers' understanding of an article, whereas we would generally publish a correction if there was an error in an article that affected its scientific integrity. In this case, we concluded that it was necessary to provide additional clarification to our readers and that publishing an addendum was the most appropriate course of action, given that the original description of the timing of the sequencing was not inaccurate but was unclear. You can read more about the types of post-publication updates we issue, and their definitions, on this page: <https://www.nature.com/nature-research/editorial-policies/correction-and-retraction-policy>.

With regards to your questions, we would direct you to approach the authors of the paper for answers, as these questions pertain not to the research that we have published but to other research undertaken by the authors, upon which we cannot comment.

Best wishes,

Bex

Bex Walton

(She/her/hers)

Head of Communications, Journals & Editorial

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From: Sainath Suryanarayanan [<mailto:sainath@usrtk.org>]
Sent: 27 November 2020 20:34
To: Francesca Cesari <f.cesari@nature.com>
Cc: Nature <Nature@nature.com>; cthomas@nature.com; Gary Ruskin <gary@usrtk.org>
Subject: Concerns about Zhou et al.'s Addendum in Nature

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